



Daily Report

Central Eurasia

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CIS Summit Postponed to 15 Apr

*LD1003145994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1149
GMT 10 Mar 94*

[Text] Ivan Korotchenya, CIS executive secretary, reported to Interfax that the next summit of CIS heads of states had been postponed from the end of March to April 15.

According to Korotchenya, Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev asked Boris Yeltsin about this during their telephone talk. "There are no written orders or instructions about the reasons of the summit's postponement in the executive secretariat," noted Korotchenya.

Newly Formed States Seen Unable To Afford Armies

PM1003160994 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 10 Mar 94 p 3

[Report by Sergey Prokopenko: "'Pocket' Armies Hard on the Pocket. Servicemen from Nearby Foreign Countries Set on Coming to Russia"]

[Text] It appears that national armies are becoming a national disaster for the independent states of the post-Union space. In fact, the last thing politicians who gained points and earned dividends from the idea of independence are bothered about now is the future of the very armies they advocated creating. They were necessary merely as an essential attribute of embryonic statehood. But when the once common "blanket" was torn up, it turned out that the shreds would not even cover the private parts, if you will excuse the expression. The units which were once the subject of fierce polemics are in a dire state. For example, the regiment of ultramodern Tu-160 strategic bombers, which were once "privatized" with such pomp and ceremony by Ukraine. While they have been under yellow and blue banners, the regiment's pilots have hardly ever been up in the air.

For the umpteenth time the military are pawns in political games. The recent flood of requests for transfer to national armies has dried up. The lack of proper social guarantees and the threat of professional degeneration altered the direction of migration. Now the cadre departments of the Russian Army's main commissariats are snowed under with letters in which officers from nearby foreign parts are expressing their willingness to serve anywhere and in any posts.

For instance, 800 military pilots have left the Belarusian Armed Forces and are now serving in Russia. They constituted 60 percent of the Belarusian Air Force flight personnel. Also badly weakened by the mass "exodus to Russia" are the Belarusian Airborne Assault Forces, 339 of whose officers have changed their place of service in this way. According to the republic committee for the social protection of servicemen, another 2,500 officers want to go to Russia.

Clearly, the independent states cannot afford to keep armies. Moreover, one cannot expect economic progress and a corresponding easing of the crisis in these armed formations in the foreseeable future.

Objectives of CIS Leaders' U.S. Visits Viewed

*PM0903163894 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
10 Mar 94 pp 1, 3*

[Article by Vladimir Nadein: "Kravchuk and Shevardnadze Asked for Money in Washington, While Rybkin Got Acquainted With the Center of International Imperialism"]

[Text] Washington—In less than a week the leaders of three countries that sprang from the ruins of the former Soviet Union visited Washington. They flew there for various purposes and with very dissimilar opportunities available to them, and hence it is quite impossible to assess by the same yardstick the success or failure of Ukraine's Leonid Kravchuk, Georgia's Eduard Shevardnadze, and Russia's Ivan Rybkin.

This extreme closeness in time and space allows us to see more clearly which of its interests—and in what way—the last superpower is pursuing in that vast area that only recently was unfriendly, and which today is no longer hostile, is not yet friendly, and is—it is not clear exactly what.

Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk, who for a long time was regarded in Washington as more or less persona non grata because of his stubborn refusal to acknowledge the legality of agreements on nuclear missile disarmament which he himself had signed, wanted not only to make a good impression, but to win the hearts of his sensitive hosts. That was why he took along Olympic figure skating champion Oksana Bayul, in whose company he went to the White House. This original idea proved surprisingly inconvenient. President Clinton had been too busy to meet with the Olympic champions among his own compatriots. For the U.S. President to receive Oksana, albeit as one of a state delegation, was a mistake which, ridiculous as it seems, could cost him many votes.

The president of Ukraine, in whose territory, unfortunately, there is not much oil or gas, has reached the point of needing to trade in the only commodity he has which has export value: Ukraine's geopolitical location. He told the Americans that a strong and independent Ukraine could be an important buffer against any expansionist urges on Russia's part.

In the absence of any clear laws on the protection of foreign capital, Kravchuk sought to entice businesspeople to try their hands in the renewed Ukraine—on the strength of his firm word as president. The participants in the New York meetings raised no objection aloud, but all the same they were thinking of L. Kravchuk's remark to the effect that he does not intend to be a candidate in the presidential elections to be held in the summer.

Politicians who are serving out their term without hope are known in America as "lame ducks," or, as we would put it, winged birds. This duality probably annoyed Kravchuk, who expressed the view, at one press conference, that Ukraine has more pressing matters on hand now than the presidential elections.

Eduard Shevardnadze, head of Georgia: cordial but imperious, a little tired, but indefatigable, M.S. Gorbachev's loyal associate, has been to Washington and to Andrews Air Base many times.

Speaking on behalf of his country of 5.5 million people, he performs miracles of inventiveness, keeping the diplomatic ball in the air. While giving Russia, the Russians, and the CIS their due, he put two requests to President Clinton.

The first, naturally, concerns money. The White House is giving \$100 million—taking its possibilities to the limit. "Let Shevardnadze ask Congress himself, he will do better (than me)"—President Clinton advised, half-joking, half-serious.

Shevardnadze's second request takes a larger view. The Georgian leader asked the United States to send U.S. servicemen to the border with Abkhazia as part of UN peace-making forces.

Clinton, naturally, refused. Point-blank. Whatever you do, don't send Americans to fight God knows where and God knows what for. But Shevardnadze is not the kind of person to take champion sportswomen to meet the President. And nor was he about to demand something from Clinton that the latter would never do.

Shevardnadze wanted the U.S. President to lead a movement in the United States for the sending of "Blue Helmets" to Georgia, and he got what he wanted. Knowing very well that nothing is going to happen in the Caucasus without Russia, Shevardnadze is setting about the task of not excluding Russia, but ensuring international monitoring of its necessary and inevitable involvement in the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict. This kind of monitoring is only possible if the United Nations takes on the role of maintaining peace-making forces.

Ivan Rybkin, speaker of the Russian Duma, showed that the communist devil is not as black as he is painted, because he is no longer a communist at all, but a regular social democrat like the ones in Sweden or Austria.

That is what many American newspapers said about the chairman of the State Duma, while the capital's WASHINGTON POST devoted an enthusiastic article to him, by its Moscow correspondent, describing the parliamentary speaker as a man who is capable, by means of his calmness, of restoring many people's confidence in his powers.

Describing the long walks to school by the little boy in the countryside, and then his work on the kolkhoz, that newspaper says that the 47-year-old former Volgograd Oblast CPSU Committee secretary is most reminiscent

of Abraham Lincoln, the celebrated American president, who was a woodcutter in his youth.

The urbane, smiling speaker confidently denied charges that his Agrarian Party harbors antireform sentiments, sought to demonstrate that the Duma is ready and willing to cooperate with the president, and, most important, reaffirmed again and again his commitment to the foreign policy line which only recently was seen as probably Andrey Kozyrev's most heinous crime—the line of partnership and cooperation with the United States.

Ukraine Admission to CIS Economic Union Troublesome

PM0703161394 Moscow TRUD in Russian 5 Mar 94 p 1

[Oleg Zolotov report under the "Here Is the News as Reported by TRUD Correspondents and News Agency Correspondents" rubric: "It Depends on Ukraine Itself"]

[Text] So far Ukraine's admission to the CIS economic union as an associate member has run into serious problems. And although the relevant agreements were reached at the meeting in Ashgabat, according to a number of experts the prospect of admission is in doubt.

Now the latest session of the CIS Coordinating Consultative Committee has opened in Moscow.

"In principle the question has already been resolved," TRUD's correspondent was told by Ukrainian Embassy Minister-Counselor Vladimir Fedorov. "The only thing being discussed now is the terms."

But I. Korotchenya, executive secretary of the CIS Coordinating Consultative Committee, has a completely different opinion.

"This question was still being worked on in Minsk," he recounts. "At the moment it is too complex to admit Ukraine. The republic has not signed the economic union's charter."

Immediately after the end of the session, TRUD's correspondent asked Committee Chairman A. Shokhin to comment on the situation.

"Today we approved the idea of joining and even the draft agreement on Ukraine's admission," he remarked. "The time this process will take depends on the republic itself."

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 11 Mar

LD1103071794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0612 GMT 11 Mar 94

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow March 11 TASS—NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA on President Yeltsin's meeting with representatives of state, public and business circles of Russia: "President Boris Yeltsin's meeting with representatives

of 'state, public and business circles of Russia' was somewhat strange if only because it was not attended by people not only from the liberal-democratic party but also those from the party of Russian Unity and Accord (PRES) and the Yabloko bloc.

"PRES leader Sergey Shakhrai had received an invitation, but since he is now away on a business trip, other PRES representatives were not invited, Sergey Stankevich told the newspaper's correspondent.

"Mr. Stankevich said the meeting had been organized in principle to reconcile the ultra wings of the political spectrum, although it is difficult to agree that the communists, agrarians and sectoral trade unions, on the one hand, and Russia's Choice and independent trade unions, on the other, can be viewed as such.

"Grigoriy Yavlinsky was not invited, maybe, because he does not represent any of the ultra forces. Mr. Yavlinsky treated this calmly, remarking that it was somehow strange to summon people to reach some accord on the next day after the president's meeting with the U.S. ex-president was cancelled because the latter permitted himself to meet with opposition figures".

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA carries an article by Aleksey Vasilyev, director of the Institute of African Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences, who believes that "Islamic Fundamentalism" does not pose real danger to Russia. There are other dangers, though, namely, that of extremism if the crisis, both the socio-economic and inter-ethnic one, continues to intensify, the danger of a rise in the threshold of non-receptivity of information and of the loss of ability for a dialogue."

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA runs an interview with President Suleyman Demirel of Turkey. He said in particular as follows: "In Russia, there are many people discontented with the break-up of the Soviet Union, dissatisfied with the fact that the republics of Central Asia, the Transcaucasus and eastern European countries are no longer within Russia's sphere of influence.

"They believe that a new Russia should be created within the borders of the former Soviet Union. It is only natural that this is the subject of concern for many countries, not only Turkey. If Russia is going to become an imperialist state, it would shake others' confidence in itself.

"If this happens, that would be undoubtedly a blow to many countries which would view Russia as a threat... If we maintain peace and cooperation, that would be of benefit to both Russia and other countries".

ROSSIISKIE VESTI on food quality in Russia:

"Over the past three years, the food quality situation has become particularly exacerbated. In Russia as a whole, bacteriological inspections revealed that from 12 to 15 per cent of dairy products, fish and fish products, and from 7 to 10 per cent of meat products did not meet standard requirements.

"In some regions, the percentage is twice as high. Even with such an acute situation, legislative and legal standards fail to promote food safety. A number of essential laws have not been adopted up to now and some standards have not been even drawn up".

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI on the radioactive contamination issue:

"Last year, about 237,000 people, who live in the areas of radioactive contamination (as a result of the breakdown at the Chernobyl nuclear power station—note by ITAR-TASS) were examined. Fifty-eight per cent of adults and 72 per cent of children from among those examined turned out to be seriously ill".

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI on the cost of services:

"Since the beginning of the year, the cost of every-day services for the population of Russia has almost doubled. Housing rent rose by 84 per cent, hot water supply by 58 per cent, the cost of some types of medical services by 18-28 per cent and consumer services by 12-26 per cent".

TRUD carries an interview with Sergey Samoilov, deputy chief of the Territorial Development Department of the administration of the Russian president.

Samoilov stated: "One is put on one's guard by a high activity of opposition political forces that seek at all costs to take a dominant position in power bodies, using the election campaign (in the regions—note by ITAR-TASS) to discredit the presidential policy of reforms.

"Most regions have a rather tense socio-political situation, which is sure to tell on voters' turnout, questioning the possibility of holding elections in a number of regions within the time-limit stipulated by decrees, or will affect the quality of the elections. This applies to areas in the far north and Magadan region".

ST. PETERSBURG GAZETTE reports that the German Lufthansa air company broadens the sphere of its influence in the Russian air transportation sector.

Lufthansa now runs flights from St Petersburg to Hamburg and Frankfurt-am-Main, and will soon introduce regular flights from Pulkovo to Munich every Saturday. The cheapest round-trip ticket costs 565 U.S. dollars.

Kozyrev Says Nixon Should Have Met Yeltsin First

LD1103095894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2016 GMT 10 Mar 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: By correspondents Dmitriy Voskoboinikov, Igor Porshnev, and Vitaliy Trubetskoy]

[Text] The head of Russian diplomacy, Andrey Kozyrev, believes that the incident involving the cancelled meeting between President Boris Yeltsin and the former American President, Richard Nixon, as the recent "spy scandal connected with the Ames case", "must not be projected on political relations." The ex-president's aides are to blame for the incident, said Kozyrev in answer to Interfax's question after his Thursday's meeting with his Italian counterpart, Giulio Andreatta.

According to Kozyrev, "Nixon's first mistake was to neglect to address Russia's Foreign Ministry." "This is the usual practice, the more so as we have known each other for a long time. We would have oriented the ex-president correctly from the very beginning, in regard to meetings with the opposition he was seeking, too," Kozyrev said. "We, too, have to deal with the opposition every day, and know it well. Had Nixon asked me for a friendly advice, as a professional in the area of international relations, I would have advised him to confer with President Yeltsin first, particularly in view of the fact that they have known each other for a long time, and find acceptable and tactful ways to meet with the opposition leaders only afterwards. There were no obstacles for such meetings."

He does not blame the American ex-president for what happened, Kozyrev stressed. "We blame his aides, who ought to have organized his trip with the help of their good friends in Russia, who would have oriented Nixon professionally. Now his aides have only themselves to blame," the foreign minister said.

According to him, "there is no point in politicizing the errors of aides who did not manage to organize everything on a proper professional level." "The blunders of Nixon's aides must not cast a shadow on Russian-American relations," Kozyrev pointed out.

With reference to his talks with the head of Italian diplomacy, Giulio Andreatta, Kozyrev said that they had focused on the ways to organize the next G-7 summit with Russia's participation. It's common knowledge that currently Italy is the G-7's chairman.

"We focused our attention on how to move toward turning the G-7 into G-8 at least in regard to political issues, where to do without Russia is impossible," Kozyrev said.

According to him, the two sides also discussed the activity of the CSCE, since Andreatta is the chairman of that organization. They also considered such topics, as

developments in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the situation connected with Russian troops withdrawal from the Baltic countries, and the observance of Russian-speakers' rights there.

Former U.S. President Richard Nixon has no intention of curtailing his visit to Russia and will remain in Moscow until March 16, officials close to Nixon, who is on a private visit in the Russian capital, told Interfax.

On Wednesday [9 March] President Yeltsin said neither he nor any of the Russian leaders would see Nixon following his meetings with opposition leaders—Communist Party leader Gennadiy Zyuganov and former Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy.

"We will not seek meetings with Russian officials," one of Nixon's aides told Interfax. He said Nixon would attend a formal reception at the U.S. Embassy late on Thursday and speak to embassy officials at 1200 on Friday. He will later meet with Russian deputies including Irina Khakamada.

Asked if Nixon was planning to meet LDP [Liberal Democratic Party] leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, one of his aides said "no agreement has been reached, though Zhirinovskiy's representatives were in contact with the American side."

The aide said that although Nixon arrived in Moscow in a private capacity, this did not prevent him from maintaining contacts with the U.S. Embassy here.

A meeting between a representative of another state and the opposition leader in a democratic country "must not be viewed as a provocative act," the leader of the Democratic Party faction in the State Duma, Nikolay Travkin, told Interfax in comments on President Yeltsin's refusal to meet with the former U.S. president, Richard Nixon.

As Travkin said, the fact that "somebody came and conferred with the opposition must not irritate the head of state who claims the role of democrat and builder of democracy."

Discusses Nixon Visit, Foreign Policy

LD1003213694 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1725 GMT 10 Mar 94

[Interview with Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev by correspondent Nikolay Svanidze; place and date not given; from the "Details" program—recorded]

[Text] [Svanidze] One knows that to a large extent Richard Nixon discussed his meetings in Moscow with the present U.S. leadership, including Clinton, as far as I understand. Another thing, at a time when Yeltsin himself was in opposition, he had meetings with top officials from other countries and received them here. There were no problems then. What offended Boris Nikolayevich this time? Why did he not receive Nixon?

[Kozyrev] I think the explanation here is very simple. I, for example, heard that Nixon was in Moscow when he had already arrived in Moscow. That is, the problem here lies in the organization [of the visit] and Nixon should ask people in his apparatus and, perhaps, complain to those people who invited him to Moscow—I don't know who it was, who was dealing with his visit here—as to why his program had been so ill thought-out.

There is a certain protocol. Protocol means certain respect toward a state in question. The president was absolutely right when he did not receive Nixon, because at the basis of his program was disrespect toward Russian statehood, toward the Russian state.

You know, his wanting to meet Rutskoy is roughly equivalent to someone arriving at a respectable gathering and—forgive me for the analogy, but this matter needs to be presented quite graphically—wanting to use the toilet. One option is to say excuse me, I will go out for a minute to make a telephone call to my close friend. Everyone will understand this and there will be no problem. Another option is to open wide the doors, to begin with this and join the guests coming out of the toilet. It is likely the guests will be offended. This is the whole problem.

I think the problem does not lie in the fact that he has met the opposition representatives or people who are more like criminals rather than the opposition in this particular context. The whole problem is that he did it wrong as regards priorities, politeness, and good manners. I do not think this is his personal problem, of course. He himself, perhaps, is not even able to deal with such details. This is the problem of those, I stress this once more, who had organized his visit and, above all, his own apparatus.

[Svanidze] That is, this is the problem of his apparatus, his team, and those who invited him here, isn't it?

[Kozyrev] Absolutely correct.

[Svanidze] As far as I know, he was invited here by no one else but Mr. Lobov, secretary of the Russian Security Council.

[Kozyrev] You seem to know more than I do.

[Svanidze] Andrey Vladimirovich, Boris Nikolayevich's reaction—can it be regarded as demonstration of toughness toward the United States?

[Kozyrev] No, this has nothing to do with the United States. I would like to tell you yet again that this problem was purely ethical, it was the problem of the program and the team.

[Svanidze] One gets the impression, many experts and political analysts, both Russian and non-Russian wrote this, that relations between the two powers have become colder now than what they were until very recently.

[Kozyrev] I am to meet Warren Christopher in Vladivostok in the very near future, and we will discuss with the secretary of state what form of partnership we should have. We should agree on this so that it does not cause annoyance and so that it does not come as a surprise, for example, when Russia comes out with its own initiative.

We, on our part, feel offended sometimes—why do they come out with their initiative when we were supposed to agree on it between ourselves first. So this should be clarified and the mechanism of interaction should be finalized. I would not dramatize it but I would not underestimate it either.

If, on the other side there is simply a desire to undermine political partnership, and these are not simply problems of growing up, so to speak, problems of mutual adjustment, but if there is a political desire to give up partnership, this would be a different matter. But one should be convinced of this first.

[Svanidze] What is this new, tougher, more authoritative Russian policy linked to? Can it be explained by foreign policy or internal policy?

[Kozyrev] I would say neither the one nor the other. It is simply appearing in a perhaps more mature form in line with the restoration of the Russian state. But again, you know, we hear this cheap criticism that consists of saying that foreign policy is encountering certain difficulties.

But here it is forgotten that ours is a new state. We only adopted a Constitution in December. Before that we were living under the Soviet Constitution. You wouldn't know whether to laugh or cry reading such a mess. So at last, then, we got a new Constitution in December.

Our Russian statehood did, of course, take on a new quality—an authoritative quality, if you like. We are now setting ourselves the full-scale task of strengthening the Russian state—a democratic state, and foreign policy accordingly. Naturally, as the Russian state becomes more powerful—and when we get on top of the economic reforms, we will have a powerful economy, whereas now our economy is weakened—this will become apparent in foreign policy. Not because we want this or because we are under pressure from the opposition and so on and so forth—nothing of the sort. The opposition only gets in the way of all of this. The opposition—I mean the extreme opposition, so to speak—is getting in the way of setting up a powerful statehood and consequently it weakens foreign policy.

You know, we are being constantly reminded of Zhirinovskiy. We are told: You are talking tough because you are being pressurized by Zhirinovskiy. Nothing of the sort. If we had not been accused of acting to Zhirinovskiy's orders or being under pressure from Zhirinovskiy, we would have talked even tougher.

[Svanidze] Do you think of yourself as a party politician? Do you think of yourself now as a member of Russia's Choice?

[Kozyrev] Well, let's not...

[Svanidze] Let's not what?

[Kozyrev] Let's not be specific about that. I was of course a member of the Russia's Choice electoral bloc, if you will. I have not rejected Russia's Choice, its common aims and so on. But Russia's Choice is not yet a party, and a complicated process to create a party as opposed to an electoral bloc is under way, along with a difficult process of, let us say, self-determination and crystallization of political currents, and so I would not now say that I belong to any specific party.

Yeltsin Adviser 'Not Quite Clear' on Nixon Issue

MK1103110094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Mar 94 p 1

[Andrey Streletskiy report under the "Resonance" rubric: "Major Diplomatic Incident; This Is How American Press Assesses Russian Leaders' Refusal To Meet With Richard Nixon"]

[Excerpts] The American press is commenting on Russian President Boris Yeltsin's harsh statement that neither he, nor anyone around him, nor members of the Russian Government will be meeting with Richard Nixon, the 37th U.S. president, who is in Moscow. As many people know, such a decision was made in retaliation for Mr. Nixon's contacts that had taken place with prominent figures of the Russian opposition. [passage omitted]

In the meantime it is becoming clear that those close to the Russian president have different assessments of the harshness shown to the American visitor.

For example, Andranik Migranyan, member of the Russian Federation Presidential Council, does not see anything objectionable in the desire of an "aging" Nixon to get an objective idea of the political processes in Russia with the aid, among other things, of talking with representatives of the radical opposition in Moscow.

In this connection, Mr. Migranyan told an INTERFAX correspondent that "he is not quite clear" about the motives of Boris Yeltsin's refusal to receive Richard Nixon. "This is even less clear if there had been a previous agreement and promise from our side of having a meeting," he added.

Yeltsin's adviser thinks the trips by USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev to the United States, during which he freely communicated with officials and political groupings hostile to Bill Clinton, as an analogy are appropriate.

Zhirinovskiy Declines Invitation To Meet Nixon

LD1003183394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1736 GMT 10 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Belskiy]

[Excerpt] Moscow, 10 Mar—Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, chairman of the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP], has today said he does not want to meet with former U.S. President Richard Nixon, the ITAR-TASS correspondent was told by the LDP press service at the end of the State Duma faction sitting. [passage omitted]

Supports Yeltsin's Response

LD1103092994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2032 GMT 10 Mar 94

[Text] Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia (LDPR) leader, told Interfax that the Russian president had been right in refusing to meet former U.S. President Richard Nixon.

In Zhirinovskiy's view, by meeting opposition leaders and former vice-president Aleksandr Rutskoy, "who did not represent anybody," before sitting with the president, Nixon was "discourteous to the head of state." Meeting Yeltsin was expected to be the highlight of Nixon's visit.

Zhirinovskiy was not sure whether he would meet with Nixon. He did not have an official word on this but knew that such a meeting was on Nixon's schedule.

Zhirinovskiy made it clear that his country "never assumed a posture" or refused contacts. He said that his party had been invited to a reception in the U.S. Embassy Thursday night on the occasion of Nixon's stay in Russia. Zhirinovskiy's deputy in the LDPR and Deputy Chairman of the State Duma Aleksandr Vengerovskiy would attend the reception.

Commentary Sees 'Cooling Off' in U.S. Relations

LD1103102894 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0900 GMT 11 Mar 94

[Text] Much of the media has recently been writing about a cooling off in the Russian-American relations. Can we call it a crisis now? Here is our commentator Aleksey Sokolov's view.

[Sokolov] Indeed, there are quite a few reports in the press on this. A lightweight diplomatic scandal is brewing between Moscow and Washington—this is how IZVESTIYA, for instance, has headlined one of its articles. The article is about the possible negative consequences of the former U.S. President Nixon's visit to Russia, where, unfortunately enough, he had a meeting with the opposition before meeting the head of state and those who represent the administration.

The article's author does not rule out the emergence of new and substantial friction in the relations between Moscow and Washington.

State Duma speaker Ivan Rybkin did mention the rough patches that have recently been affecting the relations between the two countries during his recent visit to Washington.

Incidentally, I have so far failed to come across the word crisis, evidently because, when all is said and done, there is no crisis as such between Russia and the United States. It is more likely that other aspects do exist here—it is simply that Moscow and Washington have begun to regard each other from more realistic positions. There is no doubt that Russia's vigorous diplomatic initiative in Bosnia took America by surprise. To detract from its undoubted impact, a jealous White House wheeled out the Ames' spy affair. Pleasantries were exchanged—the Russian and American residents were expelled from Washington and Moscow. The United States began to fan up the spy hysteria in every possible way here. The halting of U.S. assistance to Russia was even mentioned.

Nevertheless, let me reiterate that there are no grounds to speak of a crisis in the Russian-American relations. It simply looks like the United States, which has adopted the unofficial title of the only superpower and which has recently gotten used to Moscow behaving in a certain predictable pattern on the international arena and to its role as a younger brother, as it were, has suddenly discovered that despite its own family difficulties, this brother has become stronger and more confident and that it intends its role in international affairs to be completely independent.

It is as though the United States has forgotten that in view of objective reasons, such as the size of its territory and the presence of nuclear weapons, Russia itself was, is, and will be a world power, with a voice and interests of its own.

No, it is not a matter of returning to the times of the Cold War. Russia is no longer ideologically hostile to the West—but, having said that, it does have inalienable national interests with which, judging by everything, the United States will have to reckon in the nearest future.

As for America's interests, these can at times continue to coincide with the Russian interests or not, as the case may be, and if the latter is the case, rough patches are possible. However, the essence of the mutual relations between Russia and America ought to remain invariable. As Ivan Rybkin noted in Washington, partnership and cooperation in the name of peace and concord in the world represent the constant features of Russian-American relations.

Rybkin Holds News Conference in Washington 9 Mar

LD1003125894

[Editorial Report] Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian at 0232 GMT on 10 March carries a report by ITAR-TASS correspondents Pavel Vanichkin and Vitaliy Chukseyev on a news conference held in Washington on 9 March by State Duma Chairman Ivan Rybkin regarding the results of his visit to the United States. Rybkin says he and his delegation of Russian parliament members had meetings with House Speaker Foley; Senators Mitchell, Dole, Pell, and Nunn; Defense

Secretary Perry; Strobe Talbott; and "others." The final meeting was with President Clinton and Vice President Gore.

Rybkin says that "breaks in contacts between the legislators of such large countries as the United States and Russia" are "inadmissible" and that the Washington visit "has shown that Russian and U.S. members of parliament alike shared this conviction."

Replying to ITAR-TASS, Ivan Rybkin says he told the U.S. President and vice president and U.S. congressmen that a "qualitatively new situation was taking shape in Russia: Millions of property owners had appeared, some owning fortunes running into thousands of millions, others medium-size business people, and yet others owning small plots of land. That is why any rolling back of reforms and turning back is completely out of the question."

He says that currently he sees the Duma "as the most reform-minded branch of power in Russia." "Its members are made up by three quarters of the former government; many came to it from the presidential structures and occupy key posts in the parliament. If you look at the factions, many of them changed their names, but among their members are bankers and commerce people, legal experts and farmers, and that is why, when we come to adopt the most important laws that will clear the obstacles on the path of reforms, things will be much easier for us than for the former Supreme Soviet. However, there must be an awareness that without civic consensus, without cooperation between authorities, we cannot move an inch further. Those who failed to understand it are now beginning to understand. Even here, reading TASS reports, I see how the positions of those who, for example, were opposed to the adoption of the memorandum on accord, are beginning to change."

Rybkin speaks at the news conference about the importance of cooperation between executive, legislative, and judicial authorities in Russia and America, and says the intergovernmental commission chaired by Gore and Chernomyrdin would hold an exceptionally important meeting soon.

During the news conference Rybkin is asked how he views speeches by certain members of the Duma who paint a catastrophic picture of life in Russia while on foreign trips. He says everybody is, of course, entitled to their point of view. However, he says, I have always called for restraint and said that the personal views of deputies should bear some relation to what the people who elected them are thinking. Maybe they should visit their constituencies more often and go on fewer foreign trips. Then everything would fall into its rightful place, he says.

Rybkin is asked to comment on reports that the elections in Kazakhstan were marred by contraventions of the electoral rules and that this could give rise to serious problems. He says problems are cropping up along the entire length of our frontier, in areas where tens of

millions of our fellow countrymen are living. However, he says, such problems should be resolved in a civilized way. If anyone tries to infringe people's rights, he will soon discover how much this will cost. Just look at those countries which tried to expel our fellow countrymen, he says. All their hi-tech industries have ground to a halt, and now they are turning to us once more for help. The rights of people living in various territories must be respected, irrespective of nationality, and these people must be represented on bodies of power in proportion to their numbers, he says.

During the news conference, members of the delegation representing different factions expressed totally opposite views on the recent political amnesty for those involved in events of 1991 and 1993. In response to an ITAR-TASS correspondent question on whether the Russian delegation was united in its position at the talks with their U.S. counterparts or demonstrated similar differences of opinion, Rybkin says that whatever differences there are, if any, they are only over minor nuances. "On the principal issues in our life we were unanimous," he says. He concludes: "Our talks were precisely about the principal issues, the principles of Russia's relations with the United States. These principles have not changed. Their permanent feature is partnership and cooperation for the sake of peace and accord in the world, for the sake of the difficult reforms in Russia. We have agreed on many issues, worked out programs for cooperation and decided that mutual exchange of information should be full and frank so that there will be no rough patches in our relations, which usually appear when information is not complete."

Returns to Moscow

LD1003132894 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 10 Mar 94

[Report by A. Pishchayev on interview with State Duma Chairman Ivan Rybkin on his return from the United States; from the "Vesti" newscast—Rybkin remarks recorded]

[Text] [Pishchayev] When State Duma Chairman Ivan Rybkin returned [from the United States], journalists wanted to know first of all how the United States had reacted to former President Nixon's meetings in Moscow with the opposition in Russia.

[Rybkin] We met President Clinton and Vice President Gore straight after this and did not notice any particular reaction.

[Pishchayev] Noting Yeltsin's refusal to meet Nixon, we asked if Ivan Rybkin was planning to see this guest during his unofficial visit from across the ocean.

[Rybkin] There is a reception at the embassy this evening in connection with Nixon's visit and Mr. Pickering, the U.S. ambassador to Russia, has invited me. But at 1800

there is a meeting of the Duma council and it will be awkward for me to leave. Perhaps one of my deputies will go.

[Pishchayev] On the subject of the results of his U.S. visit, Ivan Rybkin said he had brought back with him a package of agreements on cooperation in different fields between Russia and the United States. As for our being allocated additional financial aid:

[Rybkin] No one can help us more than we ourselves. The main thing is that we are not prevented from working to the maximum of our abilities. This is what we talked about, about the fact that, deliberate or not, there are hindrances from the U.S. side.

[Pishchayev] He also said that the recent Ames scandal—the Russian spy couple within the CIA—had been discussed during his visit. The Duma speaker said certain changes could be noticed in the U.S. attitude to this problem. He added:

[Rybkin] I am fed up with the fuss over these spies whose loyalties, whose ideology, so to speak, is not clear. When I was asked about this, I said: You have some very old people in your country, you could probably find a 90-year-old who was indoctrinated by the Tsarist secret police. Would Russia have to answer for this?

Kozyrev Cited on Partnership With U.S.

PM1103110194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 11 Mar 94 p 3

[Article by Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev: "Russia and United States: Partnership Not Premature, But Overdue"]

[Text] Doubts are being voiced on both sides of the Atlantic regarding the possibility of Russian-U.S. partnership and Russian-Western partnership as a whole.

Some people are saying that it is premature. Others are talking about a return to rivalry. I would like to set out my stance in clear-cut terms straightaway: There is no reasonable alternative to partnership, unless of course you count the possibility of missing the historic opportunity to shape a democratic Russian state and transform the unstable postcommunist world into a lasting democratic one. Both these objectives are indeed interconnected. They are all too precious for Russia's democrats, who have already repeatedly encountered armed (not to mention furious political) opposition from the enemies of reform. We will continue to fight to secure these goals even if we are not heeded and correctly understood by our natural friends and allies, in the shape of the democratic states and governments of the West. In this respect, the threats to reduce economic aid to a Russia led by President Yeltsin are as futile as they are counter-productive.

The same can be said about the talk of the need to abandon "infantile pro-Americanism." If this were due

to recognition of the need to finally have the Russian Embassy in the United States carry out diplomatic work on a professional, energetic, and systematic basis or to stop statesmen, including Russian parliamentarians, making pilgrimages to the United States, one might be able to agree with it. But people seem to want to see the attainment of maturity as abandoning the idea of natural partnership. But this is not maturity, but degeneration, an ill-disguised attempt to give up the very essence of radical reform—in foreign policy too. I cannot agree to and I will not be involved in it!

The United States and the West can make an invaluable contribution to shaping a stable democratic world via the means outlined in the Vancouver and Moscow declarations that Russia and the United States signed at summit level. Namely the policy of strategic partnership. Strategic because we share common values, while Russian and U.S. national state interests regarding the main world problems not only do not conflict but complement one another.

In both Russia and the United States only reactionary forces in the military-industrial and bureaucratic complexes have an interest in wrecking partnership. They seek out mythical explanations, saying that Russia is doomed to totalitarianism and confrontation with the world outside, and East and West are incompatible. The reality is that we must move on to practical partnership.

At the same time we must abandon certain illusions. Some people in the West have indeed been daydreaming that partnership can be developed with Russia on the principle that "if the Russians are good, they must follow us in everything." There may also be romantics in Russia who thought that partnership is an idyllic situation without conflicts and problems.

I think that I and all pragmatic politicians realized from the very outset two fundamental facts.

First, as I have repeatedly said in my speeches both in the West and in Russia, including before the breakup of the USSR, the Russian Federation is condemned to be a great power. Aggressive and threatening under the Communists and nationalists, peaceful and prosperous under the democrats. But a great power nonetheless! Naturally this prompts the conclusion that it cannot be a junior partner but only an equal partner.

Second, partnership based on common values and even sympathies does not mean renouncing a firm or, if you like, aggressive policy of upholding your own national interests and sometimes of competition and disputes.

There is another dangerous illusion in the way of partnership. Namely the almost fanatical desire to see just one great power in the world today—the United States—and insistently proclaim American leadership.

First, the United States is not able to handle all the problems in the modern world on its own and would, I think, badly lose out by overtaxing itself in this way.

Second, even though it is experiencing the difficulties of the transitional period, Russia will remain a superpower not only as far as nuclear missile and military might as a whole is concerned, but also in terms of space exploration and development of state-of-the-art technologies, not to mention natural resources and geostrategic position. Third, there are other centers of influence which mean that the world is not unipolar or bipolar but multipolar.

So what option is left for Russia's democrats when the question is formulated in these terms? Agreeing to play a secondary or subordinate role would be as unwarranted as it is politically dangerous. The extreme nationalist and reactionary forces involved in the domestic political struggle in Russia would immediately take advantage of this. They are in effect already trying to do so. Even my fellow democrats are already grudgingly joking that, whereas Gaydar was not around long enough to see considerable Western aid, Zhirinovskiy is already enjoying the fruits of the talk about it!

Russia and the United States in conjunction with other countries must set about tackling two interconnected tasks. First, the joint formation of a strategic partnership bolstered by the corresponding institutions and resources. Second, the immediate setting up of a mechanism for coordinating their actions in approaching the most important international problems.

Both tasks are easily illustrated by the example of NATO. The alliance was set up to repel Communism and consolidate Western democracy. This institution, good as it may be, is obviously inadequate and unsuitable for current purposes. NATO is not faced with communism, and Russia itself is not part of NATO. The "Partnership for Peace" program will provide a partial answer, but it cannot be considered the pinnacle of achievement. That was obvious during the crisis in Sarajevo. The NATO ultimatum was delivered without Russia, but it is quite plain that Russia cannot and should not be excluded from the general efforts to settle the problem of Bosnia, where it has considerable interests and potential.

There is a danger of putting too much emphasis on NATO and partnership with it to the detriment of the CSCE, a broader and more general-purpose structure. That would be a great mistake. It is the CSCE that should play the main role in making the system of Euroatlantic collaboration truly stable and democratic.

If all of us in East and West do not learn from the difficulties and disputes of the last few weeks and immediately develop a strategy and instruments for partnership, you can be sure that these difficulties will be exploited by those in favor of self-fulfilling gloomy prophecies.

Kozyrev To Define Bosnia Stance After Christopher Meeting*PM1103104594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
11 Mar 94 p 3*

[Maksim Yusin report: "Moscow Adopts Wait-and-See Position. Kozyrev Waits for Meeting with Secretary of State Christopher Before Expressing His Attitude toward Washington's Plan for Bosnia Settlement"]

[Text] In recent days the Russian capital has become a center of diplomatic activity. On 9 March Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic and Croatian Foreign Minister Mate Granic visited Moscow, where they met with Andrey Kozyrev. On Thursday the head of the Italian diplomatic department began a visit, and on Friday his Greek counterpart is arriving. The main theme of all the talks is the situation in the Balkans.

After the Muslims and Croats reached agreement on the creation of a confederation in Washington last week, the impression was created that the United States is seizing the initiative from Russia in a Bosnia settlement. The outburst of Russian diplomatic activity is evidence of the fact that Moscow does not want to be pushed into the background. It has emerged from reliable sources that Vitaliy Churkin, President Yeltsin's special representative, will be setting off on another tour of the Balkans in the next few days, during which he plans to visit Zagreb, Sarajevo, and Belgrade.

Moscow is remaining silent over the Croat-Muslim agreement. When meeting with journalists at the end of the talks with Silajdzic and Granic, Kozyrev strenuously avoided any evaluations and expressed his thoughts as blandly as possible. Vitaliy Churkin did not offer any clarification either but stated that Russia "is continuing to study" the Washington accords and their possible legal consequences.

These "legal consequences" seem to have become a stumbling block not just for Russian diplomats. Both among the Croats and the Muslims the attitude to the Washington agreement, which was concluded under clear pressure from the United States, is mixed. "An historic precedent is being set. If part of a sovereign state (the Croatian and Muslim parts of Bosnia) enter into confederative relations with another state (Croatia) today, the Bosnian Serbs may cite that precedent tomorrow to demand a confederation with Yugoslavia and likewise the Kosovo Albanians with Albania. This will hardly be conducive to the normalization of the situation in the Balkans," a journalist from a major Croatian newspaper believes.

On Smolensk Square they have adopted a wait-and-see stance while they ponder the vast flood of conflicting information arriving these days. By all accounts, Kozyrev is waiting for the meeting with Secretary of State Warren Christopher, scheduled for Vladivostok on

14 March, to hear the U.S. argument, coordinate approaches, and only then formulate the Russian position.

What the West expects from Moscow is that it will again put pressure on its Serb allies to make them accept the Washington plan. Silajdzic and Granic tried to persuade Kozyrev that the Croatian-Muslim agreement is not aimed against the Serbs and that they can join the future confederation if they want. The Russian minister expressed satisfaction at the assurances that he received.

Meanwhile it must be presumed that both Kozyrev and his interlocutors are well aware that there is virtually no chance of winning the Serbs over and their leaders have already rejected the Washington treaty. Russia is hardly going to persist in its efforts to make them change their mind. Unless, of course, Christopher has some extraordinarily convincing arguments ready for the Vladivostok meeting.

Churkin, U.S. Envoy in London To Discuss Bosnia*LD1103114394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1103 GMT 11 Mar 94*

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Vladimir Taranov]

[Text] Moscow, 11 Mar—Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin flew out to London today for further multilateral consultations on settling the Bosnian crisis. The ITAR-TASS correspondent learned this from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In London, Vitaliy Churkin is expected to meet with Charles Redman, the U.S. envoy at the talks on settling the Bosnian crisis.

Then Vitaliy Churkin plans to visit Zagreb, Sarajevo, and Belgrade.

Yeltsin, Kozyrev, Andreatta Discuss Bosnia*LD1003210794 Rome RAI Uno Television Network in Italian 1900 GMT 10 Mar 94*

[Text] During his visit to Moscow, Foreign Minister Beniamino Andreatta said that Russia will be given a fuller role at the next G-7 summit in Naples. This is how Italy is trying to meet the Kremlin's demands to play a larger part in solving the world's major problems. Here is a report from Moscow.

[Begin correspondent Lucio Gambacorta recording] Minister Andreatta spoke about the crisis situation in Europe, first with President Boris Yeltsin and then in more detail with Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev. Andreatta was representing the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, of which he is currently chairman. The talks were based around three main points:

1. The crisis in Yugoslavia and the Serbian position with regard to the new Croatian-Muslim federation. There was no mention of Italian blue helmets possibly being sent to Bosnia.

2. In the Baltics—Andreatta left Moscow for Estonia this evening—Italy wants the Russian minority's civil rights to be respected.

3. The G-7. Italy is preparing a program for the forthcoming Naples summit in July. Some members, especially Japan, are perplexed about the idea of widening the group to admit Russia, and Russia's bid to join the group of the most industrialized countries will have to be taken one step at a time. The Kremlin's foreign policy will no doubt be the subject of political discussions, but in Naples only seven nations will participate in economic talks. [end recording]

Yeltsin Stresses Collective Activity

*LD1003164094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1614
GMT 10 Mar 94*

[Text] Moscow March 10 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin met with visiting Italian Foreign Minister Beniamino Andreatta on Thursday to discuss key issues concerning the situation in Europe and the world, a statement issued by the presidential press service said.

Yeltsin stressed the need for joint collective activity of all countries in order to strengthen stability and security, and prevent and settle conflicts. The recent progress in resolving the situation around Sarajevo highlighted the importance of a coordinated policy of the international community, he said.

Speaking about the issues to be discussed at the upcoming G-7 summit meeting to be held in Naples in July, the president expressed readiness to take steps aimed at developing closer cooperation and stick to the concept of G-8 in political interaction.

Russian Citizen Arrested for Spying for Germany

*LD1103110494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1007
GMT 11 Mar 94*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow March 11 TASS—A spokesman of the Russian Counterintelligence Service confirmed on Friday that a Russian citizen had been arrested on charges of spying for Germany.

"As investigation is still under way we refrain from any comments", the spokesman told TASS on Friday and asked not to press for detailed information.

"In general I am against such inappropriate persistence of the press. We are doing everything which is in the interests of maintaining security of this country. We report about our successes when this does not impede our work", he said.

Russian, German Spokesmen Decline Comment

*LD1003222894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1923
GMT 10 Mar 94*

[Text] Moscow March 10 TASS—The Russian counterintelligence service press centre refused to comment on Thursday on media reports about the arrest of a German spy in Moscow.

Russian Intelligence Service spokesman Aleksandr Mikhailov told ITAR-TASS that these reports need to be checked and verified.

A German press and information department official told ITAR-TASS in Bonn that he did not receive any such information and therefore could not confirm or comment on the fact of the arrest of the German intelligence agent in Moscow who was said to have worked for the Bundesnachrichtendienst, Germany's intelligence service.

Defense Minister Grachev Begins Tour of Germany

*LD1003165194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1609
GMT 10 Mar 94*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Kulbitskiy]

[Text] Bonn March 10 TASS—Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev who arrived in Germany on a visit on Wednesday began a tour of the country today.

Grachev is in Germany on a visit at the invitation of his German counterpart Volker Ruehe.

The Russian defence minister visited the 31st Airborne Brigade stationed in Oldenburg, Lower Saxony. He familiarised himself with the training programme used in the brigade, tested food from the army canteen and attended the demonstration of an automatic device for landing from the Ch-53 helicopter and transportation of a Wiesel combat vehicle by the same craft.

Grachev, Ruehe Agree on Cooperation

*LD1003230994 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in
Russian 1930 GMT 10 Mar 94*

[Text] The official visit to Germany of Army General Pavel Grachev, the Russian defense minister, is continuing. In Bonn Grachev had talks with Volker Ruehe, head of the German military department, during which they discussed various matters regarding defense cooperation. At the end of their meeting the defense ministers signed a joint statement.

The document notes that the development of cooperation between the two countries, including in the military sphere, is an important factor in strengthening security in Europe. They expressed the shared view that it is necessary to maintain stable contacts between their military departments after the withdrawal of Russian

troops has been completed. In particular, it is envisaged that Russian officers will be trained in Germany and German officers in Russia.

Agreement has been reached to hold joint military exercises. As early as this summer naval maneuvers are to be held in the Baltic, and in 1995 and 1996 exercises involving land force units are to be held in Russia and in Germany.

Kaliningrad Units May Be Transferred

*PM1003192594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
11 Mar 94 p 3*

[Report by Yevgeniy Bovkun: "Pavel Grachev Meets With German Colleague"]

[Text] Bonn—The Russian and German defense ministers agreed in Bonn to develop cooperation between their departments.

The question of the possible redeployment of Russian forces in Kaliningrad Oblast was raised during the talks. Grachev announced that the contingent would be reduced and reorganized, and it was not excluded that some units would be moved to the vicinity of St. Petersburg and to the North Caucasus.

Grachev Views 'Partnership for Peace'

LD1103115794 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 0900 GMT 11 Mar 94

[From the "Novosti" newcast]

[Text] Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev's visit to Germany comes to an end today. The Russian minister has assured his partners that the withdrawal of Russian troops from Germany will be completed before 31 August this year, and military property will be removed before May.

Grachev has also stated Russia's intention to cooperate within the framework of the Partnership for Peace program, but in that initiative he sees only a proposal for cooperation rather than a step toward a merger with NATO.

Visit Deemed 'Successful'

LD1103150794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1402 GMT 11 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Leonid Vorontsov and Aleksey Korinenko]

[Text] Berlin, 11 Mar—Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev's visit to Germany has been described by the heads of the military departments of the two countries as "very successful and friendly." Speaking today at a concluding joint news conference in Berlin, Pavel Grachev and Volker Ruhe stressed that the accords and documents signed during the visit have laid the foundation for the development of cooperation between the two

countries in the military sphere after the completion of the withdrawal of Russian troops from Germany.

"An opportunity has arisen, which must not be missed under any circumstances," the Russian minister said. "This is a chance to considerably improve bilateral relations in all spheres. Regarding the military sphere, many practical measures have been planned and both sides are ready to carry them out in full."

Agreement Reached With Ukraine on Gas Debt Problem

LD1003202594 Moscow Nezavisimoye Televideniye Television in Russian 1600 GMT 10 Mar 94

[Text] Today Russia and Ukraine resolved the conflict which has arisen because of Ukraine's gas debts and the delivery of Russian gas to Ukraine. Our team has only just returned from filming.

[Correspondent Zrelin] Throughout the whole of today difficult talks were held in Moscow in the Gazprom building. Even journalists invited to a news conference in the afternoon had to wait 90 more minutes. While cameras were being set up in the hall, the two sides were still defining their positions in the final document.

So, Russia and Ukraine have agreed on the joint utilization of the gas pipelines passing through Ukrainian territory and also the storage tanks for the natural fuel, with the subsequent sale of shares in them. It has been decided to introduce order into the debts issue within a month, that is by 10 April, and also to agree on the percentage of ownership of the gas pipelines and the storage tanks.

[Ukraine Vice Premier V.I. Landik] This year we will pay for gas only in money—either rubles or hard currency—but as for the 1993 debts here it will be 50-50; that is we will supply equipment and materials to Gazprom to cover 50 percent, and 50 percent will be paid in money, either rubles or hard currency.

[Zrelin] Moscow and Kiev have also decided to toughen up the procedure for supplying fuel to consumers. This means that enterprises in Ukraine will receive gas only if they pay in advance. If there is no prepayment then there will be no gas.

[R.I. Vryakhirev, chairman of the board of Gazprom] If we do not introduce order together, I mean by 10 April, then gas supplies to Ukrainian consumers will be completely halted.

[Zrelin] It was also decided to in no way reduce export supplies since European consumers have already demanded large forfeits from Russia for non-fulfillment of contracts. Ukraine has also promised to no longer take gas from export pipes.

Aleksandr Zrelin, Nikolay Grigorin, NTV, Moscow.

Kozyrev Departs on Visit to Tunisia, Israel

LD1103094394 Moscow *ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian* 0745 GMT 11 Mar 94

[By *ITAR-TASS* diplomatic correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 11 Mar—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev left on 11 March for Tunisia and Israel. The program of the lightning visit by the head of the foreign political department includes meetings with Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, and with the leaders of Tunisia and Israel.

The Russian minister will hand over to the leaders of the PLO and Israel a personal message from Russian President Boris Yeltsin on the problems of achieving an all-embracing peace and security in the region.

Yeltsin Appoints Middle East Representative

LD1103122994 Moscow *ITAR-TASS in English* 0840 GMT 11 Mar 94

[By *ITAR-TASS*]

[Text] Moscow March 11 TASS—The Russian president decreed to appoint Viktor Posuvalyuk, member of the Russian Foreign Ministry Collegium and director of the Middle East and Northern Africa Department at the Russian Foreign Ministry, a special representative of the Russian Federation president on Middle East settlement.

Zhirinovskiy Urges Return of Former Bulgarian Land

AU1103114794 Sofia *DUMA in Bulgarian* 7 Mar 94 pp 1,4

[Interview with Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, "leader of the Russian Liberal Democratic Party," by Vasil Popov; place and date not given: "Economy Reshapes State Borders"]

[Text] [Popov] In several places in Europe, you made statements about reshaping the existing state borders. How do you envisage this, if you do not intend to use military power?

[Zhirinovskiy] Through economy. If the Yugoslav economy had not been destroyed, there would not have been any change of the borders and no new states would have emerged. Peace and calm would have continued to reign in Serbia and all of Yugoslavia. However, the economy was destroyed and we facilitated this by participating in the embargo. The embargo paralyzed every attempt to revive the economy and now a war rages and borders are being reshaped. The same applies to Iraq and Libya.

Let us look at Ukraine. It owes us a few zillions. Why should we forget this money? Kiev steals our gas, which is intended for Germany. The Germans are imposing

fines on us, and thus we are being hit from both directions. This is economy? This is only friendship that still exists between certain leaders.

[Popov] During your visit to Bulgaria you spoke about returning certain territories to Bulgaria.

[Zhirinovskiy] Bulgaria could take its territories back. We will not give them to you—they are not ours. However, if Dobrudzha is Bulgarian, why is it in Romania? And if Thrace is Bulgarian, why is it in Turkey? I mean the return of your own territories, not the conquest of new territories by force.

[Popov] How could this happen?

[Zhirinovskiy] The Bulgarians alone should resolve this issue. Naturally, through economic means. However, your economy stagnates. Your chemical plants have been closed. Your resorts are empty. The workers of Vorkuta for example, could rest very well there. You owe Russia \$70 million. Why do you not allow our workers to rest in Bulgaria in exchange of your debt? Our people will rest and you will pay your debt.

[Popov] There was a lot of noise about the political amnesty. The Liberal Democratic Party was one of the parties that initiated this amnesty.

[Zhirinovskiy] Our program included an amnesty for all those arrested since 1986, and thus ending the perestroika. Both sides made mistakes, and now the deputies, the government, and the people forgive. Let all those who are guilty begin by zero. The amnesty could only have a positive effect. Starting from the zero point we will seek ways of joint activity. The people have been freed and this is good.

[Popov] Do the former defendants have a political future?

[Zhirinovskiy] They should not have a political future. The victims who fell in vain in October, the destroyed families, and the emigrants should remind them of this. Khasbulatov went home. Makashov did the same. Dunayev said that he will devote himself to his wife, children, and motherland. This is good advice for all of them. However, everyone can participate in political life when it is based on the Constitution, i.e. to take part in the elections. Let them compete—anyone could have a chance if he does not build barricades and does not accumulate weapons. They will begin now, while we already have an advantage. Let them try to reach and surpass us, as it happens in sports.

[Popov] People are talking about a crisis in the Liberal Democratic Party.

[Zhirinovskiy] This is disinformation. The entire country is in a crisis, and this affects all parties. It is like a car—it moves, but releases gases and makes noises. The army also is in a crisis, but if necessary it will stop any eventual aggression.

[Popov] The budget was discussed recently. Will its adoption help Russia?

[Zhirinovskiy] The budget will not help Russia. Only a change of the political leadership will help Russia. In the summer or in the fall we will change the government and will begin a new policy in the country.

Zhirinovskiy on Slovenia's 'Cowardly Provocation'
LD1103093294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2032 GMT 10 Mar 94

[Text] "A cowardly provocation" was staged against the Liberal-Democratic Party of Russia (LDPR) leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy in Ljubljana, said a statement made public by the party's press service Thursday.

According to the statement, Zhirinovskiy arrived in the Slovenian capital on March 6 "at an invitation of the local business community." In the airport "armed men who introduced themselves as officers of the Interior Ministry and security service but did not show any identity cards" told Zhirinovskiy that they were acting on the orders of the Slovenian Government, did not allow him to leave the airport, kept him there for 24 hours and sent him back to Moscow.

The press service described the incident as "a cowardly provocation aimed at subverting the friendship of the two fraternal peoples."

Kalugin Views Current Intelligence Tasks

AU1103120794 Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 10 Mar 94 p 7

[Interview with Oleg Kalugin, former Russian intelligence general, by Gabor Horvath in Moscow; date not given: "The Collapse of the Empire Provides More Work"]

[Text] Oleg Kalugin is perhaps the most famous former Russian intelligence official. Under journalistic and diplomatic cover, he worked a total of 12 years in the United States and then became deputy head of the KGB counterintelligence unit in Leningrad. Because of the strong accusations, declarations and disclosures from this unit, Mikhail Gorbachev stripped him of his rank of general and of his 22 decorations, but he regained them from Yeltsin later. Oleg Kalugin appears in the Western press regularly. In the course of one of his visits in London, he was imprisoned for a short time on suspicion that he was connected with the Markov-assassination with the poisoned umbrella. Our correspondent interviewed him in the hall of an elegant hotel in Moscow.

[Horvath] Two years ago, Russian Intelligence Head Yevgeniy Primakov suggested that the United States and Russia mutually stop spying against each other. Was this a realistic offer?

[Kalugin] Not at all. I do not think it was a serious offer either, because neither the interests of the West nor the

interests of Russia can be asserted without spying today. In addition, the intelligence services now have more work to do with the collapse of the Soviet Union and the end of the former predictable and monolithic system. It is the obligation of the intelligence services to inform their governments about the potential threats coming from the enemies of reforms within Russia and from the peripheries that are in flames today.

We hope that the time will come when Primakov's offer can be implemented but, today, even clear allies like Israel, Japan, America, and France spy against each other. As for Russia, the tasks of our intelligence service have narrowed down, and there is a considerable difference between the former activity of the KGB and the current activity of the Foreign Intelligence Service. Formerly, we allocated tremendous energy to psychological warfare and to undermining the prestige and influence of our enemy. We are no longer engaged in such activity.

[Horvath] Is that true?

[Kalugin] I will explain why not: The CIA is no longer interested in Russia's disintegration and Yeltsin's fall. On the contrary, the United States is interested in maintaining and continuing the democratic changes. Nor is Russia interested in supporting communist parties all over the world.

[Horvath] However, Washington might oppose the idea of Ukraine and Belarus joining Russia again....

[Kalugin] This does not fall in the jurisdiction of the CIA; they do not have so much power to decide on the fate of countries. One should not exaggerate the possibilities of intelligence.

[Horvath] In the current international politics, what is the role of the information obtained by various states through illegal means?

[Kalugin] Regarding today's Russia, the role of such information is extremely low. Our society is open now, and we hardly have any secrets. It is very difficult to keep back even the really confidential information. Nor is there any Russian secret policy against the United States, NATO, or the West. On the contrary, we would like to be the first to join NATO and precede all the other candidates. Today's intelligence service works more as an analysis center. It gathers and analyzes the information originating from various sources.

[Horvath] Where is the dividing line between a diplomat gathering information legally and a secret agent under diplomatic disguise?

[Kalugin] Honestly speaking, the difference is becoming increasingly smaller. For example, formerly we spent huge amounts of money to obtain inside information from the U.S. State Department, because the United States was interested in weakening the Soviet Union. We no longer have such motives.

[Horvath] Thus, the current spy hysteria is totally unfounded.

[Kalugin] The current American campaign is a rather hypocritical thing, because American agents are also active in Russia, and even within the KGB. There were people who were caught and condemned—and even executed—according to the law. But the Russian leadership never engaged in a noisy propaganda war. The Russian leadership regarded this as an “operational accident.” True, I understand and partially excuse Clinton, because the U.S. conservative circles are suspicious of the too rapid rapprochement with Russia. After all, the loud declarations are only political gestures toward these circles. America is actually trying to help us, so the use of the principle of “tooth for tooth” would be irrational. On the other hand, intelligence is playing a considerable role in science and technology and in obtaining new markets, even among friendly nations. For example, Central Europe used to be the traditional market for the Soviet industry and it would not be fortunate to lose it.

[Horvath] What role could the intelligence service play in this?

[Kalugin] A wide role. It might seem unbelievable today, but I remember how proud the officials of the Hungarian intelligence were when they succeeded in obtaining some American types of corn with which one could increase

production. At the time, we even looked down at them a little, although it really was an achievement, because they saved their country a lot of money.

[Horvath] Suppose that the Russian intelligence is also active in Central Europe. Is obtaining such economic information among its major tasks?

[Kalugin] Precisely so, and this is not aimed at forcing these countries back into the Warsaw Pact, because this would be a useless effort.

[Horvath] In other words, we are not talking about support for pro-Russian parties and influencing election results.

[Kalugin] This would only push Central Europe away from Russia. But there is sense in economic intelligence. For example, we learn that Hungarian-French talks are being held on the supply of certain products, while there is also a competitive Russian offer in that area. In that case, it is in our interest to discover the financial conditions offered by the French in order to lower our price and obtain or preserve our market positions. There is nothing morally condemnable in this. Moreover, intelligence services can even cooperate in the struggle against terrorism or drug trafficking, and then they actually contribute to some countries becoming closer to each other.

Political Issues**Yeltsin Urges 'Civil Peace' Based on Five-Page Accord***PM1003173194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
10 Mar 94 p 2*

[Report by Vasilii Kononenko: "President Promotes Idea of Signing Document on Civil Peace"]

[Text] On the morning of 10 March, people representing the most diverse institutions of society—from political parties to power structures—gathered in B. Yeltsin's office in the Kremlin. Prime Minister V. Chernomyrdin was there, as were Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia Aleksiy II; M. Miutukov and V. Viktorov, deputy chairmen of the two chambers of parliament; Ye. Gaydar, leader of "Russia's Choice"; V. Zorkaltsev, representative of "Communists of Russia"; N. Vitruk, chief of the Constitutional Court; and representatives of trade unions and public organizations. The president assembled this audience in order to seek the entire spectrum of views on a very important idea he has been plugging of late—the idea of civil peace and accord.

"We are getting information from all over Russia," the president said, "that people support the proposal I put in my message to parliament on the signing of a document on civil peace and accord. Everyone must see that the time for confrontation is past. I am proposing an organized discussion today of the question of preparing such a document, on the basis of which it would be possible to unite all political forces in society for the sake of the main goal—peace and tranquility in Russia. In fact, irrespective of our different views, we are all patriots. This should not be a battlefield. If there are differences on other questions they must be resolved through negotiations. A short document of five pages or so could be prepared within two weeks, and then we could meet again to find the mechanism whereby as many participants as possible would sign it."

If the main political forces were to sign the document (memorandum or charter?) on civil peace and accord, all potential instigators of social tensions would find their hands tied, since people would be unlikely to oppose the idea of social accord publicly. Whether it is possible or not is another matter. It is hard to imagine a binding rather than merely cosmetic document suiting parties of different ideological hues. While making pledges, they would inevitably start making demands as a condition of signing the document—from the creation of a coalition government to the reestablishment of the USSR. Such is the spread of views at the moment.

TV Reports Kremlin Meeting*LD1003185294 Moscow Nezavisimoye Televideniye
Television in Russian 1600 GMT 10 Mar 94*

[Excerpt] Yeltsin is concerned at the absence of civic concord in the country. This was the theme of talks held today in the Kremlin.

[Correspondent Mitkevichus] Today, the president gathered together in the Kremlin representatives of public political movements, parties, Duma factions, the church, Federation Council, and government in order to develop an agreement on civic peace.

[Begin Yeltsin recording] [Words indistinct] some kind of single opinion, or several common positions that will unite us in society—namely, civic peace and concord, civic positions in society—so people understand us, that we are not working against Russia, we are not working against Russians, but are in favor of this concord, that the time for confrontation has passed. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Chernomyrdin Criticized*LD1003150194 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in
Russian 1317 GMT 10 Mar 94*

[Text] A meeting was held in the Kremlin today between Russian President Boris Yeltsin and representatives of various public movements, the Federation Council, Duma factions, and the government. It was devoted to preparing a draft memorandum on civic accord and peace. Understandably, an issue of this importance embraces a whole range of problems, and the crisis in the fuel and energy complex may be considered a problem of the first order. This issue was also discussed at the meeting. On the telephone, especially for Mayak, is Aleksandr Sergeyev, chairman of the Russian Independent Miners Union.

[Sergeyev] The president said that this morning he signed an edict on raising the accountability of employers for the untimely payment of wages. He demanded that the procuracy and courts take effective steps, and observe the legislation, the violation of which has taken on massive dimensions in Russia too. He also said that it was necessary to take immediate measures to stabilize the banking system and turned to Chernomyrdin, who was present at this meeting, asking why he was taking such a long time to make these decisions. That was just the first reaction of the president to what is going on in the coal mining regions, and I hope that in the near future edicts will be published on raising accountability for nonpayment for fuel and nonpayment by coal consumers, and also raising accountability for holding up the processing of payments in the banking system. At least, I got the impression that the government had already prepared these proposals in principle and that the question is when it is going to be signed. Despite this, however, I still feel that the situation remains very critical, and even the middle of March will be very serious. If the government does not take measures like these to stabilize the economic situation the strikes will take on an even more massive and threatening nature.

Yavlinsky Not Invited

LD1003142794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1224
GMT 10 Mar 94

[Text] The leader of the Yavlinskiy-Boldyrev-Lukin group in the Russian State Duma was not invited to the Thursday Kremlin meeting of the president and heads of political parties and movements. Talking to journalists in the State Duma Grigoriy Yavlinskiy assumed that the president "evidently brought together those who did not meet with Richard Nixon."

He said Yeltsin's public refusal to receive the former American president now staying in Moscow on a private visit, after Nixon met several opposition leaders, the ban on Nixon's meetings with the government and the head of the presidential administration Sergey Filatov, "have nothing even to do with the slightest ideas of democracy, loyalty, tolerance or diplomacy."

Yavlinskiy also said that the contents of his hour-and-a-half conversation with the former American head of state on March 8 "gave no grounds for such a demonstration."

According to Yavlinskiy, during their meeting, Nixon mentioned that the list of his meetings in Russia had been agreed upon with President Clinton. Yavlinskiy said the former American president also disagreed with claims that Yeltsin is oppressive and undemocratic because Nixon could meet with opposition leaders. Nixon said this shows the president is confident and is quite broad-minded.

Kremlin Meeting 'Strange'

MK1103113094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Mar 94 p 1

[Ivan Rodin report under the "Parliament" rubric with general heading: "Boris Yeltsin Proposes That an Agreement on Civil Peace and Accord in Russia Be Signed. However, Representatives of PRES, 'Yabloko,' and LDPR Were Absent at the Kremlin Meeting With the President Yesterday"]

[Text] Boris Yeltsin's meeting with representatives of "state, public, and business communities of Russia" (a quotation from the statement that the participants in the meeting approved in general) was somewhat strange, at least because people not only from the LDPR [Liberal Democratic Party of Russia], but also the PRES [Party of Russian Unity and Accord] and "Yabloko" did not attend it. Sergey Stankevich told your NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent that PRES leader Sergey Shakhrai did receive an invitation, but he was on a business trip, and other representatives of the party were not welcome at the meeting. Mr. Stankevich said that in principle the meeting was organized for the purpose of reconciling the extreme ends of the political spectrum, although it is hard to agree that the communists, agrarians, and sectoral trade unions on one hand, and "Russia's Choice" and the independent trade unions on the

other, may be considered as such. One may surmise, however, that someone substituting for Mr. Shakhrai as party leader was not needed because the prime minister took part in the meeting.

Grigoriy Yavlinskiy was also passed over for an invitation, maybe because he does not represent any of the extreme forces. Mr. Yavlinskiy himself was calm, saying only that it seems somewhat strange that people should be convened to reach an accord precisely on the next day after a meeting with a former U.S. President was canceled because the latter dared meet opposition leaders.

The participants in the meeting adopted a statement agreeing to the idea of drawing up and signing an agreement on civil peace in Russia so as to create conditions for the Russian economy to overcome the crisis and to stage a recovery in the near future, to make policies more predictable and understandable, and so forth. The statement, the authorship of which is attributed to Georgiy Satarov, also has lots of other grand, albeit somewhat sloppily constructed phrases.

Yesterday, State Duma factions considered its candidates for the would-be working group to draw up the text of the civil peace agreement. It has transpired that to all appearances, none of those amnestied or their proxies will be part of the group.

Yeltsin Signs Edict on Citizens' Working Rights

LD1103094994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1654 GMT 10 Mar 94

[Text] Moscow, 10 Mar (ITAR-TASS)—Today, Russian President Boris Yeltsin signed a decree "On Accountability for Violation of the Working Rights of Citizens," which said that the procuracy of the Russian Federation should increase control over the observation of Russian legislation on work, collective treaties and agreements by enterprises, institutions and organizations, irrespective of forms of property and departmental subordination. The procuracy should take special measures to avoid delays in payment of salaries.

It has been recommended that courts should pay special attention to the necessity of taking measures directed at revelation and elimination of reasons and conditions that cause these violations when they investigate cases on violations of Russian legislation on work, collective treaties, and agreements.

Filatov Says Yeltsin May Delay Local Elections

LD1003144994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1149 GMT 10 Mar 94

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin is likely to pass a decree putting off elections to the local self-government bodies until autumn, Chief of the President's Staff Sergey Filatov announced during an intercom conference between the Central Electoral Commission and the chairmen of the local electoral commissions. He noted,

however, that in the regions where elections had been properly prepared, they would be held according to schedule.

Filatov believes that elections to the local governments should be suspended because it is still unclear what authority they would carry. The population must decide what their government should be like, he said. In each region the government should have its specific features, he added.

He expressed concern about the violations in the election campaigns revealed in individual regions. Some electoral districts are formed up on the basis of the national principle, he said, and the electors' proportions are violated, too. Filatov stated that if these violations were politically tinged, a new wave of confrontation might rise and the process of national reconciliation might be slowed down.

Filatov on Upcoming Local Government Elections

LD1003191094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1452 GMT 10 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Text] Moscow March 10 TASS—Preparations for the upcoming elections to bodies of local government in Russia's constituent republics and regions are just "a matter of coordination between bodies of power and the population," according to Chief of the Russian president's staff Sergey Filatov. He participated on Thursday in a hotline telephone conference with regional leaders and heads of constituency electoral commissions. The conference was held by the Central Electoral Commission together with the presidential staff with an aim to check whether subjects of the Federation were ready for the forthcoming elections.

Theoretically, all issues pertaining to the polls have been settled. But there are some facts provoking concern of federal authorities, Filatov noted. First of all, these are certain breaches of citizens' voting rights, which have been already mentioned in a resolution by the State Duma. Thus, many experts point to improper "slicing" of constituencies. "There is some doubting that in certain cases the apportionment was politically motivated", the presidential staff's chief suggested. Sometimes, segmentation into constituencies "was carried out along ethnic lines, with distorted proportions in the number of constituents and a shift towards rural areas," he noted.

Filatov urged regional leaders not to abuse their powers, since at the moment they are "the only authorities in localities and should always remember that executive and elected bodies of power should be kept in balance." One must not "erect barricades from the very outset of the election campaign," Filatov stressed. If we build up confrontation between different branches of government, reconciliation in the society will be never achieved, he firmly believes.

Dwelling upon elections to bodies of local government, the presidential aide noted that some regions did not understand well enough what local government should look like. In this connection, Filatov referred to the Constitution which stipulates that local self-government is separated from bodies of federal power. It is up to local residents to decide what government they need. Local bodies of power should not be unified. Regional specifics and traditions should be taken into consideration.

Filatov stressed the need for a law to give a clear definition for bodies of local government. He encouraged participants in the telephone conference to come up with their proposals on this issue, so that a draft law on local government could be submitted to the State Duma. Some officials believe that elections to bodies of local government should be postponed until after an appropriate law is passed. Filatov said the president was likely to issue a decree postponing the polls until this autumn, as the public chamber proposed. As for the regions which have settled all the problems in this field, elections will be held at the discretion of local authorities and residents.

Filatov also expressed concern over the population's inertness in the election campaign. He called upon regional leaders to "work for the highest possible turnout in the upcoming elections".

Chernomyrdin on Defense Potential, Agriculture Changes

LD1003210594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1740 GMT 10 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Nizhny Novgorod March 10 TASS—Despite the deep economic crisis and stagnation in the scientific and technological complex, many of Russia's high technologies maintain leading positions in the world. This conclusion was made by the Russian governmental delegation led by Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin after a visit to the Nizhny Novgorod region, particularly the local TV-set factory which demonstrated the newest and most advance radar capable of detecting the most sophisticated "Stealth planes" at a range of up to 1,200 kilometers.

Chernomyrdin also met with the directors of Nizhny Novgorod's defence plants and heads of local administrations to discuss conversion. The premier urged them to exert maximum effort in order to preserve the defence, scientific and technological potential of the country.

The draft budget for 1994 slightly cuts military expenditures. This may lead to the "immediate demobilisation of 400,000 servicemen and termination of arms purchases," according to First Defence Minister Andrey Kokoshin.

Chernomyrdin was in the Nizhny Novgorod region to take part in an agricultural conference, "Land Reform: the Nizhny Novgorod Model," which was attended by the leaders of more than 40 Russian regions. The region has been carrying out a comprehensive programme of land privatisation and reorganisation of state and collective farms since the autumn of 1993. Two farms have already held auctions to sell plots of land and property.

Chernomyrdin called for radical changes in the system of state financing of agriculture and said that "the state has always supported and will support agriculture because Russia cannot survive without it."

"We will lend money against guaranteed results and only on the basis of such results. We must know how much food and of what quality people of Russia will receive on the allocated budget means," the premier said. He said that the draft budget for 1994 envisages allocating 11 billion roubles to agriculture this year.

The main task of the government is to "breed" an effective, independent and sovereign owner in the agrarian sector, the premier said. He praised the experience of land auctions organised in the region, one of which he attended today. The aim of such auctions is to encourage the owners of plots of land and other property to play a more active part in agriculture.

The development of the system of land and property auctions marks considerable progress on the way towards building a civilised market. The existing land law has so far failed to create conditions for the transfer of land to those who would use it more effectively. There is no mechanism regulating the purchasing, selling and leasing of land in Russia, Chernomyrdin said. He considers land auctions as the real beginning of the process to establish a land market in Russia. The premier believes that the experience of land auctions in Nizhny Novgorod should be used across the entire Russia.

The conference was also attended by First-Vice Prime Ministers Aleksandr Zaveryukha and Anatoliy Chubays. Chernomyrdin is expected to return to Moscow today.

LDPR Deputy Leaves Party, Attacks Zhirinovskiy

LD1003214494 Moscow Nezavisimoye Televideniye Television in Russian 1900 GMT 10 Mar 94

[Text] The Russian Liberal Democratic Party (LDPR) parliamentary faction has once again drawn attention to itself. Judging from what is going on, a scandal is brewing.

[Unidentified correspondent] It seems that Vladimir Zhirinovskiy has not been able to prevent a split in his party. Today Viktor Kobelev, the chief of staff of the LDPR's Central Committee, in an interview to our program, announced his definitive break with the head of the party. We remind you that almost a month ago, Viktor Kobelev tried to leave the faction but the LDPR leader persuaded him not to do it, while telling the press

that the party's second man's attempt to leave was a planned action necessary to expose special service agents in the ranks of the party.

According to Kobelev, this claim is absolutely groundless. Moreover, as became clear today, the chief of staff, together with his deputy, Aleksandr Pronin, left the faction at their first attempt, having concluded a certain truce with Zhirinovskiy, which the latter has recently violated by insisting on an amendment to the law on the status of deputies. This amendment would allow Duma leaders to recall deputies who are members of their factions at their own volition. Kobelev is now in a determined and definite frame of mind.

[Begin Kobelev recording] I chose my credo very clearly—I am outside the faction while Zhirinovskiy is the leader of the faction. [end recording]

[Correspondent] According to the chief of staff, after he, Pronin, and Anatoliy Kashpirovskiy leave, the majority of Liberal Democrats are ready to leave the faction, but at the moment are frightened that Zhirinovskiy might be able to influence their deputy places. Incidentally, the position of the head of the LDPR himself in the Duma is a bit shaky today, since the Shchelkov Rayon court deemed his deputy mandate invalid. Viktor Kobelev is ready to take the vacant place of the faction leader, that is, if that is the decision of the party. But even if this does not happen, the former chief of staff, who knows all the secrets of the party's money, is the most dangerous figure today for the LDPR head; he is capable of heading a powerful internal party opposition.

[Begin Kobelev recording] I will save—I am not afraid of that word—or at least I will try to save Russia from unpredictable politicians. [end recording]

'Soviet Stalinists' Accuse Zyuganov of Opportunism

LD1103005694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2032 GMT 10 Mar 94

[Text] The Union of Soviet Stalinists and the Bolshevik Platform in the CPSU accused Gennadiy Zyuganov, the leader of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation of pursuing an opportunistic "neo-Gorbachev" line. They made a statement to this effect after Zyuganov's meeting with Richard Nixon, former U.S. president.

"We do not know what Messrs. Nixon and Zyuganov talked about, but judging by the fact that Mr. Nixon was pleased with the meeting, Mr. Zyuganov misrepresented the outlook for revival of communism in the USSR. There is, however, a Bolshevik, Leninite-Stalinite wing as well as Zyuganov's opportunistic neo-Gorbachev wing in today's Soviet communist movement. The former is discriminated against by opportunists of the Zyuganov's and Shenin's kind from inside the communist camp more than by the authorities," said the statement made public Wednesday.

The authors of the statement believed that today a true communist was a Stalinist and revival of the Stalin-founded economic system was the only way to extract the country from the plight into which the anti-Stalinists dragged it during the 40 years since Stalin's death.

Shakhray Justifies Amnesty Decree

PM1003123794 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA
PRAVDA in Russian 10 Mar 94 p 2

[Interview with Sergey Shakhray, minister for nationalities affairs and regional policy, by Vasilii Ustyuzhanin in Moscow; date not given: "Amnesty Has Saved Chernomyrdin. Memorandum of Accord Has Avoided Acute Political Crisis"—first two paragraphs are introduction]

[Text] Sergey Shakhray has unexpectedly become a key figure in the disposition of political forces this spring. His parliamentary speech in support of the amnesty has muddled up quite a few people's cards.

Our talk took place in the new office of the minister for nationalities affairs and regional policy on Krasnopresnenskaya Embankment. Five months ago a hail of bullets flew through these windows on the third story of the White House. Now they look onto a peaceful view of the Moscow River.

[Ustyuzhanin] Sergey Mikhaylovich, a number of your former kindred spirits have now turned on you with accusations of a shameless act of betrayal.

[Shakhray] It is the same old story. The moral aspect was left out of the debate about the amnesty altogether. It was obvious to all that both sides were to blame for the events of 3-4 October last year, albeit to differing degrees. These events were preceded by a creeping usurpation of power without any formal violation of the Constitution by the Supreme Soviet. The president cut this Gordian knot by formally violating the Constitution. The result was the assault on City Hall and "Ostankino" and the shoot-out at the White House. It was an episode of civil war. The logic of civilian clashes does not know of any precedents for identical punishment. First of all the victors put the vanquished on trial, later the tables are turned, and so on ad infinitum. And at every stage of this process innocent people become casualties. There is only one effective way to get out of strong-arm confrontation, and that is through an act of reconciliation. And we have now proposed one.

[Ustyuzhanin] Are you not oversimplifying things?

[Shakhray] To many people it is clear that 1994 could have become a year of civil war. The charge of confrontation that had accumulated over recent years had become too powerful. For a time we lifted this threat. But the amnesty act relegated the "Russia's Choice" bloc to the political wilderness. Hence the sharp reaction to the other parties' peacemaking initiative.

[Ustyuzhanin] What in your view are the principal political gains of the amnesty?

[Shakhray] The whole of society has won. I know the reaction from the regions—it is a sigh of relief. The heads of administrations with whom I spoke recently are requesting that we take further steps in this direction. The president, government, parliament, and those who benefited by the amnesty are all winners by this. The president and the Duma will cooperate closely (surprisingly, this is happening at the moment), passions will finally die down, and "Democratic Russia's" censure will abate. It will become apparent that the interests of the Duma and the president coincide, at least tactically and temporarily. Some of the Duma deputies, who came to the Duma with the aim of freeing the Lefortovo inmates, have kept their promise and a potential hotbed of conflict has thus been extinguished. Although their interests and those of the released Lefortovo prisoners will probably diverge in the future.

[Ustyuzhanin] What makes you say this?

[Shakhray] New leaders have appeared within the Duma itself, they do not want confrontation, it is important to them to retain the image of initiators of civil reconciliation and to accumulate political capital. The fact that Rutskoy and Khasbulatov are free is also advantageous for the president. The juridical and political bases of their bid for power have now entirely vanished. Anyone may return to power, but only through elections. Which is great! This in itself is a step toward reconciliation. The main point is that the Memorandum of Accord has become the valve which has let off steam from the acute political crisis expected in April or May.

[Ustyuzhanin] Why in April or May, and what crisis are you talking about?

[Shakhray] In society today we are currently witnessing a struggle between three elites—the Moscow elite, the regional elite, and the sector elite. Moreover, the latter two elites have begun to move closer together. For its part, the Moscow elite has concentrated over 70 percent of the entire country's banking capital in the capital's banks, and it has powerful levers of influence on the authorities. All of these forces are seeking a leader and middlemen to help the competing sides avoid clashes. One way of letting off steam might have been a demand for the president to "surrender" his premier and his cabinet. The amnesty, however, has disrupted the already established "combat alliances" and thrown their plans into disarray. The amnesty has basically saved Chernomyrdin's skin.

[Ustyuzhanin] Sergey Mikhaylovich, judging by your analysis, this summer we will witness universal brotherhood....

[Shakhray] There is still a long way to go before we reach that stage. The country has gained a temporary breathing space, a pause. This is the one thing we can thank the amnesty for. But it is only a breathing space. Unless we

exploit it, we could see a repetition of the events of October. And then a new figure would appear at the forefront of the political stage—the man in shoulder boards. The establishment of order in the country would then cost far more lives. We must do much more to achieve brotherhood.

[Ustyuzhanin] What exactly?

[Shakhray] Right now orthodox Christians, Muslims, and all other Russian faiths should hold funeral services for the dead. We all need to beg forgiveness of the families of the killed and wounded, to acknowledge that it is impossible to define who is right and who is guilty by juridical methods. Our leaders need to repent most of all. The package of documents adopted by the Duma offers this opportunity for repentance and civil reconciliation.

Right now it is important to give the new parliament the chance to work at full throttle. The economy will suffocate without laws. After all, there is virtually no time left for the Duma to finish its work—22 months. It would be offensive and shameful to waste these months on new political clashes.

Gaydar Explains Hopes for New Party

PM1103120194 Moscow TRUD in Russian 10 Mar 94
Evening Edition pp 1-2

[Interview with Yegor Gaydar, leader of "Russia's Choice," by Nikolay Kishkin and Olga Solomonova; place and date not given: "Yegor Gaydar: 'There Are No Free Lunches'—Leader of the 'Russia's Choice' Parliamentary Faction and Former First Vice Premier of the Russian Government Announces the Formation of a New Party"]

[Text] [TRUD] As we know, following your departure from the government, criticism of the "Gaydar" course of reforms intensified. TRUD has frequently given your opponents the chance to have their say. Today the floor is yours. Why are you setting up your own party, Yegor Timurovich? Do you intend to use it to become president or to take charge of the Cabinet of Ministers in two years' time, or are your plans more modest?

[Gaydar] Our goals are highly serious, but they are not linked with who specifically tries to become president or premier.

The essence of the political choice and the cataclysms of 1994, defining it as simply as possible, is that, in my opinion, the present government is unable to make a firm decision about what it wants to do in the economy. Decisiveness presupposes a firm choice between one of two consistent and intelligible strategies.

The first possible strategy is as follows. The government, faced with the present difficulties and unable to make up its mind to go forward, firmly pursues the course of establishing a directive-based, command economy with

its plans, funds, quotas, distribution shortfalls, suppressed inflation, "backdoor dealings," speculation, unconvertible currency, guaranteed employment, and so forth. And then everything is understood—what to do today, tomorrow, and the day after that, what problems to resolve, what threats arise, and whom to fight.

Then there is the second strategy. The government understands that it is possible to get out of the current intermediate position by another route. It decides quickly and consistently to form market mechanisms, remove excessive state pressure on the economy, reform the legal system, guarantee the right to property, stabilize the national currency, gradually reduce taxes, and create incentives for private savings and investments. And to carry out reforms on this basis. Then it is also clear what to do in the first, second, and third stage.

But the most difficult problem arises when neither the first nor the second decision is made. Then hesitations inevitably begin. We saw this policy in 1989-1991, when the Union leadership could not make up its mind.

Now we are again in a similar intermediate position, from which there are the two possible escape routes of which I have already spoken. Moreover, the first of them is backed by fairly clear forces, and, against the background of the inevitable strains posed by the intermediate position, the possibility exists that they will manage to convince people that this solution is the simplest, the most tried and tested, and the most reliable. Despite the complete futility of this solution, the danger of its being chosen is real. A highly structured organization with a long tradition is working toward this end—the Communist Party.

Before 1992, when the wind seemed to be filling the sails of democratic transformations, the democrats could afford not to counterpose to the first alternative a highly structured organization in the form of a party. "Democratic Russia" was not a powerful organization either in 1989 or in 1990. It went from victory to victory on the wave of disillusion with the old system, the old ideology, and the old bosses. That wave has now subsided. In order to uphold the second alternative, which, in my view, is the absolutely essential condition and prerequisite for the creation of a civilized society in our country, serious systematic efforts are necessary.

The formation of our party is just such an effort to form a force which will champion the second, democratic, civilized alternative in Russia. So that the small shoots of our civil society which have managed to grow within this period are not once again flattened by an armor-plated roller. So that they are not destroyed.

[TRUD] But you, Yegor Timurovich—indeed, "Choice" as well—have the reputation in the eyes of a significant section of society of being "reformist wreckers." How do you intend to change this opinion?

[Gaydar] We will direct our main efforts at explaining the simple truth. It is our duty to explain who, in point of

fact, wrecked the economy, who robbed our gold and currency reserves, what really could be done, what we did, and, of course, what needs to be done today to extricate the country from its difficult position.

It should be borne in mind that we were really forced to assume the huge burden of responsibility for the reforms. Ruslan Imranovich [Khasbulatov] artlessly believed that 10 days after the beginning of the reforms it was already time to dismiss the government which had done the donkeywork. He simply underestimated the fact that this donkeywork would take more than one month. We understood perfectly well how difficult and thankless this work was, and how easy it was for our opponents to explain how wonderfully they would have done everything if evil forces in the shape of Gaydar and "Russia's Choice" had not interfered.

The benefits which the reforms brought people, despite their huge costs, were until now almost taken for granted: both the market, which is more or less stable, and the ruble—though people grumble about it, it is on the whole convertible, and you no longer have to go from Tula to Moscow for sausage meat, or wait in line.... What was simply impossible to imagine two years ago had become almost customary. All this, it seemed, was guaranteed. But now people are beginning to understand that it is not all completely guaranteed.

Today the question is not whether this could have been done more easily or more mildly than it was done by Gaydar, but whether or not it will endure. Or will everything be taken away again? Of course, it can be taken away. In 1925, as a result of the New Economic Policy, there was a fully developed market in Russia, but in 1928 they again introduced ration cards, and there came a famine and other choice delights. Will this be repeated?

What we have on our side is clarity. Perhaps not very pleasant, but clarity all the same. It is absolutely clear what we stand for and what we will not allow while we are alive and able to do something. So much for our reputation.

[TRUD] Right now many parties of every kind are being set up. Not one of them has yet done anything, hence they have nothing to answer for. But you already have the burden of responsibility for the past hanging round your neck....

[Gaydar] Thank God, we now have more opportunity to talk frankly than before. After all, it becomes both funny and sad when it suddenly turns out that, for everything that the government did without me in the spring of 1993—they kept the crazy state order for agricultural production, they kept preferential credits, they fixed crazy prices, they adopted a whole range of federal programs that were wholly unsupported, they introduced state subsidies for mixed feed and increased other subsidies—for all this, it turns out, Gaydar is now to blame. Just as I am to blame for the fact that, when I came in, I started to abolish preferential credits and subsidies.... I

am also blamed for the fact that Chernomyrdin cannot fulfill the promises he dished out in the spring.

We all understand this. But before, shackled by government solidarity, we could not say so plainly, because quarrels of this kind are, in my view, appropriate either in cabinet sessions, or if you are no longer working in the government. But now I can talk frankly about it all.

[TRUD] Your opponents say roughly the following: Gaydar delayed the payment of wages, so inflation was reduced, but now Chernomyrdin has paid the accumulated debts, and inflation has shot up.

[Gaydar] What is the crux of this problem? Since last spring, from the time that the government issued a colossal number of impracticable promises, events have been operating, as it were, according to two sets of logic. One is the logic of current funding: Money, generally speaking, can be counted; some is given out, some is not. But another logic began to develop—the economy of promises, which is always mixed with untruths. Because it is simply impossible to deliver such promises afterward.

When we came into the government last fall, the essence of our actions was not delaying the payment of wages—that was done before we came, in May, June, July, and August—but trying to quickly reduce the volume of impracticable promises. To stop lying, to put it simply. And we at once launched an assault on the most expensive impracticable promises—preferential credits.

[TRUD] You supported the liberalization of bread prices and at the same time planned to win the elections?

[Gaydar] Yes, I knew that that was politically disadvantageous, but it was honest. I was actually in favor of saying bluntly that we could not pay subsidies on mixed feed, and I revoked them. But the subsidies were restored the next day. That was last October. But after all, they are not being paid today. There is no money to do so. They represent a fantastic expense! You could stop funding higher and secondary education and science altogether—you still would not be able to afford these subsidies. But instead of honestly saying to agricultural workers: You will not get this money, do not expect it—they continue to promise it.

I believe that the most terrible vice of the policy pursued in 1993 was that it was a policy of budget payment defaults, a policy of unaffordable promises. After all, if you really want the fascists to come to power in the elections, employ the simplest policy—first promise, and then fail to deliver. Nothing could be simpler!

[TRUD] To what extent, in your opinion, did the flaws and failures of the reformist course and the shock therapy help strengthen national radicalism?

[Gaydar] All radical social transformations are a difficult and painful affair. Some people adapt very well, others with difficulty and badly. And society always reacts to

this pain with an upsurge of aggression, an attempt to find someone to blame, to find simple explanations.

It is this that lies at the heart of our desire to bring the time frames of economic and social transformations in Russia as close together as possible. And the fact that we did not manage to do this fully—that the reforms began to skid—in my view substantially increased the risk of the advent of radical national socialism.

[TRUD] Our multiparty system has expressed itself in the form of an unthinkable number of lilliputian parties. What are you doing to ensure that your party is not the same sort of closet-cum-club organization? Do you have support in the regions?

[Gaydar] We do indeed have very few real parties, and of them the most powerful and viable is the Communist Party. The democrats also have their own organizations, but they are very badly structured, without clear discipline or fixed membership. Our main task today is to create a sufficiently broad organization, taking whatever lies in the potential of democratic structures and is at the same time clear and definite. Anyway, it was the largest faction in the Duma, backed by dozens of deputies representing the democratic forces in the most diverse regions of Russia, which took the initiative to organize the party. A faction for which millions of Russians voted. Of course a party will be viable if it has support in the regions. We have such support, I believe.

[TRUD] Do you not think that "Democratic Russia's" recent decision, in which it was mildly intimated that you cannot rely on "Democratic Russia's" support, will affect the formation of your party?

[Gaydar] "Democratic Russia" is, of course, a large organization, in which there are many people with different viewpoints. I believe that we have a reasonable dialogue with them, and we by no means want to cram all "Democratic Russia's" activists into the new party. I consider their council's resolution that "'Democratic Russia's' regional organizations will determine independently the degree of their practical participation" in the formation of our party as a mild form of support. We hope to hold our constituent congress in late May.

[TRUD] You will recall that when the formation of the "Russia's Choice" movement was just beginning, the first to propose setting up a party on the basis of the movement was Gennadiy Burbulis. Has he lost the initiative today, or have you seized it?

[Gaydar] Gennadiy Eduardovich did indeed more than once express the idea of creating such a democratic party—in 1992 and in early 1993. But the problems which then stood in the way could not be overcome. Today this is a decision of the faction to which he also belongs. I know that Burbulis has his own special approaches to the problems of party organization and the development of a party-based movement. I think that we should give him the chance to spell out his position.

[TRUD] The name of your party is the "Liberal Conservative Party." However, "Russia's Choice" is known as more of a radical democratic movement. Does not the one exclude the other?

[Gaydar] Indeed, today we are perhaps the biggest conservatives in Russia. Because if we have managed to grow something, however small, in the past two years, to get nearer to an open society, to the market, to freedom of speech, and to private ownership, our main task is to conserve that. In addition, we also support traditional conservative values—stable legislation, support for order, and the fight against crime...

[TRUD] Imagining a social cross-section of society, at what levels do you see the potential members of your party?

[Gaydar] There are statistics about who voted for "Russia's Choice." They are people with above-average education and above-average qualifications, on average or slightly above-average incomes. That is to say a stratum which in civilized, developed market economies is called the middle class.

In Russia this middle class consists of skilled workers of the free professions and small-time property owners. Only this class, I am profoundly convinced, can become the launch mainstay of a stable society, of democracy and the market.

[TRUD] It is also, of course, the most creatively active stratum of society. But it is not strong enough, it is not very united, and it is eclipsed by lumpenized but well-organized groups...

[Gaydar] You are absolutely right. That is indeed the essence of the social, economic, and political alternative with which we are faced today. It is the choice between the lumpen who has been told that the foreigner is his enemy and that if he crushes that enemy and breaks through to the Indian Ocean, he can have a pineapple in one hand and a banana in the other, and the rational section of society which understands that there are no free lunches.

Coup Plotters Judge on Amnesty Decision

LD1003224394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1950
GMT 10 Mar 94

[By CRIME-PRESS correspondent Yuriy Shcherban]

[Text] Moscow March 10 TASS—There have been no attempts by top officials to put pressure on the court during the hearings of the case involving the leaders of the 1991 August failed coup, Anatoliy Ukolov, chief judge in the trial, said.

Speaking at a news conference in Moscow on Thursday, Ukolov said that the court, as a body which applies the law, could not disobey the decision of the Russian Parliament on amnesty.

Asked about how the decision on amnesty was applied to former Soviet Vice-President Gennadiy Yanayev whose case was considered separately and Aleksandr Tizyakov, a large industrialist, whose case was suspended, Ukolov said that the military board of the Russian Supreme Court adopted a decision to amnesty them on March 2, the next day after the original decision on amnesty was passed.

'Court Investigation' Continues

LD1103110994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1017 GMT 11 Mar 94

[By CRIME-PRESS correspondent Yuriy Shcherban for TASS]

[Text] Moscow March 11 TASS—Court investigation of the case of organisers of the 1991 Soviet coup has resumed after the Presidium of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation considered and satisfied the appeal of the prosecution on Friday, TASS learned from the secretariat of the Presidium.

The trial of the 1991 coup organisers was declared over after the Russian State Duma proclaimed an amnesty to the plotters. However, the prosecution appealed against the decision saying that any trial which is already under way is to be completed by passing a guilty or non-guilty verdict. If the verdict is guilty, the accused will then be amnestied.

'State Secret Protection System' To Be Modernized

LD1003223094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1949 GMT 10 Mar 94

[Text] Moscow March 10 TASS—A regular session of the Interdepartmental Commission for the Security Council of the Russian Federation on Information Security was held in Moscow on Thursday.

The participants in the session discussed issues related to the realisation of the law "On the State Secret" adopted in 1993 and creation of an up-to-date mechanism to protect state secrets.

The session approved recommendations with a view to speed up work on a state programme of the complex modernisation of the state secret protection system. Representatives of the Russian Government, leaders of ministries, departments and the Russian Academy of Sciences participated in the session.

Intelligence Service Spokesman Interviewed

LD1103114194 Moscow Radio Moscow in Russian to Tajikistan 1700 GMT 10 Mar 94

[Interview with Yuriy Kobaladze, head of Foreign Intelligence Service press bureau, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Today we are starting a new series of programs about the Foreign Intelligence Service. Radio Slavyanka's questions are answered by Yuriy Kobaladze, head of the service's press bureau. Russia's Foreign Intelligence Service has only existed as an independent organization since the end of 1991, when it was hived off from the KGB. Has this separation proved justified?

[Kobaladze] I am convinced that it was justified. Several factors show that this move was the correct one. First, an intelligence service can never be a law enforcement agency. Its existence within the KGB, as it was then, meant that the intelligence service was expected to perform law enforcement functions. An intelligence service should not carry out such work. An intelligence service is a completely separate and independent organization, which performs a special, unique form of work.

[Correspondent] But clearly, there must be some kind of legislative framework regulating the activities of Russia's Foreign Intelligence Service, stipulating the bounds beyond which its officers must not stray in their work.

[Kobaladze] Yes, we are very proud of the fact that a law on foreign intelligence was adopted last year for the first time in Russia's history. This document was very carefully drafted. A great deal of preparatory work was done, and our experts were brought in to help. Everything that exists elsewhere in the world in this sphere was analyzed. It transpired that, basically, there is only one country, the United States, that has developed legislation in this sphere, a clearcut law that regulates the activities of the intelligence service. After taking all this experience, all this international, world experience, and modifying it, parliament adopted the law. We believe it is a very good law.

[Correspondent] The Russian Federation's law on foreign intelligence clearly defines the powers and responsibilities of intelligence officers and stipulates the need for parliamentary control over their activities. What else does Yuriy Kobaladze regard as being fundamentally new in this document?

[Kobaladze] I also wish to emphasize the fact that party influence in the intelligence service has been completely removed, and this requirement is now enshrined in law. In other words, an intelligence officer cannot be a member of any party, cannot get involved in party activities. Furthermore, the service has been de-ideologized. In other words, we in the intelligence service do not serve the interests of any party grouping or ideology, as it were. We have only one ideology: defense of the country's national interests, serving the fatherland, serving the lawfully elected authorities, and serving the constitution. We do not have any other ideology.

Migration Service on 'Flood' of Third World Immigrants

LD1003185394 Moscow *ITAR-TASS in English* 1449 GMT 10 Mar 94

[By *ITAR-TASS* correspondent Liliya Kuznetsova]

[Text] Moscow March 10 TASS—The flood of immigrants from third-world countries is growing like a snowball. Their number increases by something like one hundred people a day, announced on Thursday an official in the Russian Federal Migration Service.

"Russia will accept only those who qualify as refugees", Yuriy Arkhipov, the head of the department on external migration, declared in an article with *ITAR-TASS*. "No one will be able to get that status automatically".

Arkhipov holds the opinion that Russia has ended up with a crisis situation in the immigrant sphere because the law adopted on refugees and the act on Russia's accession to the United Nations 1951 convention "on the status of refugees" were not very well thought out. At the same time, he noted, "the Western countries quickly evaluated the situation and, as soon as Russia signed the convention, made their entry laws much stricter".

At that time, a regional office representing the Department of the UN High Commissioner for Refugee Affairs was formed in Russia, with the goal of solving the problems of immigrants who were already in the Russian Federation. Therefore, Arkhipov said, "Russia, without being aware of it, became the country which received the whole flood of migrants from the countries of Asia, Africa, and the Middle East".

In order to solve the problems created by immigrants from developing countries, it is necessary to, first of all, "regulate the situation on the border through legislation and international agreements", said the migration official. That does not mean, he cautioned, that we "should erect an iron curtain, but we cannot put up with the transparency of the Russian borders any longer".

Arkhipov expressed his opinion that every country in the Commonwealth of Independent States should take the responsibility for the security of its borders upon itself. Otherwise, "trying to limit the flow of immigrants is like bailing water with a sieve".

Besides, Arkhipov said, Russia should let the world community know through the mass media that it "is not considering establishing any aid programmes for massive waves of immigrants from third-world countries".

Explaining the way the immigrants operate, the official said the majority of them do not immediately apply for refugee status as soon as they cross the border, as they should under the law, but try to get to Moscow. "The country's capital is not a reception point". The migration services, even after they grant refugee status to somebody, "do not then settle the immigrant in the Moscow region". Moscow already holds about 180 thousand

immigrants, who have created a whole mass of problems. "They do not respect Russian citizens, ignore the laws of the country sheltering them, and do not obey law enforcement representatives", he claimed.

Arkhipov said the situation can be changed only by "the creation of a clear mechanism for determining the legal status of foreign citizens on Russian territory as a basis for adopting the following appropriate decisions".

New Government Appointments Announced

PM1003161194 Moscow *ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI* in Russian 10 Mar 94 p 1

[Unattributed report under the "Monitoring" rubric: "Cadres"]

[Text] By a directive of Viktor Chernomyrdin, Nikolay Mikheyev has been appointed chairman of the Russian Federation Committee for Water Resources.

By a directive of the Russian Federation Government, Aleksandr Samusev has been released from the post of deputy minister of fuel and energy, and has been appointed Russian Federation deputy finance minister.

Economic Issues

Yeltsin Signs Edict on Tula Experimental Development

LD1003171194 Moscow *Mayak Radio Network* in Russian 1200 GMT 10 Mar 94

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin today signed a decree on holding an experiment in Tula Oblast to create organizational, legal, and economic conditions for the development of a regional agro-industrial complex, the presidential press service has reported. It is believed that the experiment will span the period between 1994 and 1998. It will be underpinned by economic self-management, expanded rights of the oblast authorities in implementing budgetary, investment, and credits policies, and also by improved internal production and economic relations.

Chubays Pledges Full Privatization by 30 Jun

PM1003125194 Moscow *ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI* in Russian 10 Mar 94 p 1

[Article by Anatoliy Chubays: "Check Privatization Will End 30 June Regardless of Who Puts a Spanner in the Works"]

[Text] Regardless of any changes in the situation or any attempts to change the course of privatization, despite attempts to renounce the check privatization, I am prepared to say absolutely unequivocally: The program will be implemented fully, down to the last privatization check, by the set deadline of 30 June 1994.

The program is continuing to develop. Unique packages of shares of major enterprises, of interest to shareholders, will be issued at check auctions in the near future. Check auctions in the power and oil industries are now being developed. Shares from the Ulyanovsk Automobile Plant, the "Optoyuviler" Joint-Stock Company, the Novorossiysk Shipping Company, and dozens of other efficient enterprises will be issued at check auctions in the near future. That, strictly speaking, was how our program was structured.

Today the key issue for us is the question of the post-privatization functioning of the enterprises. Therefore, to a great extent, all of us are switching our activity and our influence to everything that is connected with the creation of sources of investment for the privatized enterprises. My colleagues and I have recently been putting forward various initiatives concerning the search for new sources of investments. We are also actively supporting Western initiatives in this sphere. A Russian-U.S. enterprise fund is now being created in Russia, which will only be involved in investments in privatized enterprises, and this means no less than \$300 million. Dozens of funds like this will come into being in the near future, and we are trying to help them as much as possible in their practicable work.

Yeltsin Adviser on Economic Outlook, Budget

PM1003142194 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 10 Mar 94 p 1

[Report by Vladimir Yermolin: "Will They Curb Inflation? Russian Federation President's Expert on Economic Reform Prospects"]

[Text] The ordinary person in the street did not need experts to tell him that Russia is more intent on spending on itself at the moment than on investing. But when Aleksandr Lifshits, head of the Russian Federation president's group of experts, says that he fears to look into a future where the actual use of depreciation deductions, which are essential to compensate for wear and tear, will be 10 percent as against 90 percent for consumption, you begin to look at the situation in a rather different way.

In simple terms, what we are saying is that we can say goodbye to industrial development, to high-technology production, and to reproduction in general unless, in the very near future (according to Lifshits), the government proposes measures to beat the crisis. The Russian Federation president's expert believes that one effective method in this case might be a slight relaxation of the procedure of regulation on the part of the state. What he said was literally as follows: "We are exchanging the absence of money for the presence of economic freedom." That is, the enterprising must be given the opportunity to fight for their own survival to maximum effect. At least, we must not get in their way.

In the meantime, while producing little, we are wearing out clothes that we did not make, we are finishing off a machine tool pool that dates back to the five-year plans,

and we are in no hurry to work for the future, concentrating, as we are, entirely on the present. Will we be able to curb the rate of price increases in these circumstances? Aleksandr Lifshits pointed out that the government's August program guidelines for the rate of price increases by December 1994 were set at 3-5. But, according to the expert's estimates, these indicators may leap to 10-12. As a result many of the processes that are destroying our economy would become simply irreversible.

According to Lifshits, unless the government goes for fundamental measures the State Duma is bound to decide to do so. He was not optimistic about the fate of the state budget—the figures laid down in it may not hold out for more than three or four months. And then further adjustment will be needed.

Fedorov: Government Remains Committed to Reforms

PM1003120194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 10 Mar 94 p 2

[Article by State Duma Deputy (and former finance minister) Boris Fedorov: "The New Monetarists"]

[Text] For me the main enigma of the enlarged government session was the very tough and irritated message the premier addressed to certain mysterious, power-hungry heads of laboratories. On consulting the "Who's Who in Russia" I ascertained that Shakhrai was the sole laboratory head among current and recent deputy chairmen. What is the significance of this?

To be serious, no other major revelations were made at the session. The president's guidelines were repeated in a pretty general and vague way. The differences in objectives regarding inflation were retained. As expected, it remained unclear how the government intends to carry out its plans. Three months have now passed since the elections, but no specific action has been seen to date.

I have just returned from abroad, where I met with foreign bankers, industrialists, and journalists. I was very curious to learn their reaction to the "new economic course" so solemnly discussed in Moscow. The fact is there was virtually no reaction. There was indifference and skepticism. Virtually no one pins great hopes on the "new course."

No matter how I tried to persuade potential investors that the snags and deviations of Russian reforms should not be feared—that the general course, despite everything, remains correct—edginess and suspicion prevailed. Their stance may be summed up as follows: You regularly dupe us with your reforms and financial stabilization but still ask us to make investments and grant credit and talk about writing off old debts....

Unfortunately this is, from a certain standpoint, true. There are many people among our functionaries who

want to go into reverse, to isolate us from the world community, to introduce censorship and other delights of the old system....

However, on the other hand, life serves as a good school and personal responsibility as a whole university. It seems to me that the key figures in executive power are drawing correct conclusions. The last two months have shown that when it comes to specific actions and decisions the evaluation of the situation has substantially changed.

The premier and the Central Bank chairman are today behaving like the most consistent "monetarists"—they promise a lot but they give no money. These actions, of course, have nothing to do with real monetarism, but they are very sensible in principle, as they counter the attempts to flood the country with worthless money.

In this regard you can only express your respect for the authorities: They are withstanding monstrous pressure, they are considered by "their own people" to be the most ardent conservatives. Skokov asks them to acknowledge honestly that the causes of inflation lie in production and sign an agreement with his Union of Manufacturers, yet they hold out and give no one any money, and they have forgotten about "nonmonetary methods" of fighting inflation and its "inertial-oscillatory" character.

The sole problem is the lack of specific reform measures. In 1993 several dozen such were implemented. In the current year, not a single one. On the contrary, there are signs of the reverse. Take, for example, such a masterpiece as the 23 February decree on the agrarian complex. Apart from its patently crude nature—it clearly cannot be carried out—it contains many features agreeable to the ear of lobbyists—subsidies, grants, credits....

It is essential to move from simple "withholding" of money and talk of bankruptcies to decisive action; it is essential above all to establish basic order in finances and the state apparatus and to adopt a real budget. In two to three weeks from now, we will start analyzing the first quarter's results and will have to face up to the facts.

The main conclusion I have drawn from the past week is that there has been no "new" course. The government basically remains committed, albeit not consistently, to the old course. It is unclear why it was necessary to waste several months, undermine the exchange rate of the ruble, and make bombastic statements just for this.

However, the political situation is such that the government has no political base. It is under attack from left and right. Zyuganov demands that Chubays and Kozyrev be driven out of the government, others demand the government's resignation and early presidential elections, yet others demand a coalition government, even though the coalition we have today is more than sufficient. According to the "Itogi" TV program, only 5 percent of Russians think that the government has real power.

I think that until the government really changes its course, the democratic forces in the Duma should support it, since it could be replaced by an even less experienced government with an itch to test out experimentally their more than dubious ideas.

Central Bank Member Opposes Federal Reserve Idea

MK1103130094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian
11 Mar 94 p 2

[Anatoliy Veslo report under the "Standoff" rubric: "Conversion of Central Bank of Russia Into Federal Reserve System Not Expected Yet"]

[Text] Irina Khakamada, leader of the "12 December" group, told your SEGODNYA correspondent yesterday that, in her view, the possible conversion of the Russian Federation Central Bank into a federal reserve system is, so far, in the stage of "ideas and wishes generated by the president's staff, and such an abrupt reconstruction of the financial system is not going to find support for the time being either in the government or in the Central Bank lobby." Irina Khakamada also thinks that the policy of the government and the Central Bank of Russia is primarily geared now at stabilizing today's financial structure, and then at increasing the state control and flexible maneuvering within the already set rules of the game.

An official statement about the possibility of restructuring the Central Bank of Russia into a federal reserve system came last week from Aleksandr Lifshits, head of a group of experts under the Russian Federation president. This is not a matter of xeroxing the U.S. Federal Reserve system, which makes it possible with the aid of a flexible adjustment of the discount rate and the supply of money in circulation to avoid abrupt inflationary changes in the economy. However, according to the economists and bankers behind presenting this idea to the top power echelons, a federal reserve system, if formed in Russia, would make it possible, on one hand, to end the Central Bank of Russia monopoly, and, on the other, to put in place civilized forms of internal hard currency settlements.

It is no surprise therefore that the given idea, which is so far just an idea, has provoked more than a burst of temper among Central Bank chiefs. (According to some information, Aleksandr Khandruyev, deputy chairman of the Central Bank of Russia, suggested to the unruly bankers, who had put forward this idea at a conference in the State Duma budget, taxes, and prices committee, that they "wash themselves in blood"). The prospect of weaker monopolist positions on the Russian financial market made Central Bank chiefs conduct a preemptive campaign to explain that the federal reserve system idea is corrupt and totally out of keeping with the specific Russian character. According to reports from informed sources, mutual understanding was reached.

Aeroflot Reconsiders Conditions of Boeing Lease Deal*LD1103004494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2048 GMT 10 Mar 94*

[Excerpts] The value of a deal between Aeroflot-Russian International Airlines and Boeing on leasing four Boeing 767-300ER jumbo jets may be halved, while the term of lease may be cut by at least one year, the head of the company's international commercial department, Vladimir Tikhonov, told a conference of Aeroflot representatives abroad in Moscow Thursday. According to his calculations, the lease of four Boeing 767 airliners is "too costly" as the expenses may amount to \$300 Mn. Tikhonov believes two jumbo jets will be quite enough, while the term of the lease may well be reduced to three to four instead of the proposed five years.

Tikhonov said he was sceptical about the experience of exploitation of five A310-300 in Russia. According to Airbus Industry which supplied the airliners in 1992, their leasing inflicted losses worth \$15 Mn on Aeroflot in 1993 alone, while Aeroflot states the losses reached \$22 Mn. [passage omitted]

Tikhonov said the high cost of the airbuses' use was caused by the exceptionally high amount of the lease (\$46 Mn a year) which covers the entire profits from their exploitation. Commenting on the lease of foreign-made jets, Tikhonov said it was a "forced measure called to cover the deficit of modern long-range jets until new Russian airliners such as Il 96-300 and Il 96M are supplied in sufficient quantities."

1994 Grain Harvest To Drop to 89 Million Tonnes*MK1003113094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 10 Mar 94 p 3*

[Unattributed report: "1994 Grain Harvest Forecasts Are Unfavorable"]

[Text] Agriculture Ministry experts forecast a reduction in the gross grain harvest down to 89 million tonnes (against 99 million tonnes in 1993 and 107 million tonnes in 1992), whereas the country's requirements are estimated at 114 million tonnes. According to the forecast of the Federal Hydrometeorology and Environmental Monitoring Service, around 13-16 percent of the entire sown area of winter crops will have to be resown in the spring. Given that the area of winter-sown crops, which account for one-third of the grain harvest, has been reduced, the scope of spring field work should be drastically increased. At the same time, only 75 percent of available tractors and 76 percent of plows (81 percent) were in working condition as of the beginning of March (against 80 and 81 percent respectively at the same time in 1993), while fuel and seed reserves were considerably smaller than usual. The availability of mineral fertilizers stands at 30 percent of the requisite level, and herbicides at slightly more than 50 percent.

Military, Nuclear & Space Issues**Official Denies Swedish Reports of Nuclear 'Incident'***AU1003175494 Paris AFP in English 1724 GMT 10 Mar 94*

[By Boris Bachorz]

[Excerpt] Moscow, March 10 (AFP)—The head of Russia's state nuclear consortium downplayed Thursday two leaks at a nuclear plant in northwestern Russia and said the west was overdramatizing such incidents in Russia's aging nuclear facilities.

Erik Pozhdishev, speaking during a conference on nuclear security here, said leaks of cooling liquid and vapour at the Kola nuclear plant in northwestern Russia in the past week were "not serious," and both were rated zero, or insignificant, on the international seven-point scale of nuclear incidents. His statement contradicted an earlier higher rating given to the first incident on March 3. He also denied that anything had happened Sunday, when Swedish experts said there had been a small incident at the Kola plant in northwestern Russia, which is close to the Swedish border. [passage omitted]

Data on Chemical Weapons 'Very Conservative'*LD1003230094 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2000 GMT 10 Mar 94*

[Text] Official data on chemical weapons in Russia is very conservative, thinks Aleksey Yablokov, chairman of the Russian Security Council's Interdepartmental Commission for Ecological Safety. According to Interfax, he declared this at a news conference today. He said that in Russia there are not 40,000 tonnes of toxic substances, as officially stated, but possibly a whole order of magnitude more. Apart from Aleksey Yablokov, the news conference was also attended by Lev Fedorov, a doctor of chemical sciences and co-author with the scientist Vil Mirzoyanov, who published the well-known article "Poisoned Politics."

Case Dropped Against Scientist*LD1103095094 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 0900 GMT 11 Mar 94*

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] We've just received an urgent telegram in the office. The Russian Federation Procurator General's office has announced that on 11 March, acting Procurator General Ilyushenko dropped the criminal case against the chemist Vil Mirzoyanov, who was accused of divulging information that constituted a state secret, owing to the absence of any corpus delicti in his actions.

[Moscow INTERFAX in English at 2048 GMT on 10 March, in an earlier report, adds: "Russian scientist Vil Mirzoyanov, charged with betraying a national secret,

told Interfax on Thursday that he would continue his efforts to end the development of new chemical weapons in Russia." "Mirzayanov said Russia and other nations continued devising new toxic substances, for that did not contradict any international agreements. Thus, the Paris Convention on the destruction of chemical weapons does not mention new types of chemical arms, including binary weapons. 'As long as work goes on on new kinds of toxic substances I will continue fighting whether I am arrested again or not,' the scientist said."

Investigation of CW Issue Urged

MK1103131094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian
11 Mar 94 p 2

[Lev Aleynik report under the "Security" rubric: "Lev Fedorov Unsure Russia Produces No Chemical Weapons. He Urges Investigation Into Military-Chemical Complex Activities"]

[Text] Dr. Lev Fedorov has stated that he "would not give guarantees" that Russia has totally discontinued the production of chemical weapons. These conclusions, according to co-author Vil Mirzayanov, are also suggested by the recent splash of events connected with "Mirzayanov case" and the reticence of officials unwilling to provide the public with details of the state of affairs in the military-chemical complex (MCC).

Lev Fedorov presented yesterday a report, "Chemical Weapons in Russia: History, Ecology, Politics." He stated in a press conference that "there are no forces in the government... that would regard seriously both the danger posed by the MCC, and the safety of the population. The government has not even started to solve the problems of getting rid of highly toxic dioxins; the questions we raised of elimination of liquid rocket fuel in the same class of danger as toxic substances also await consideration."

Lev Fedorov underlined that he and his colleagues "have so far received neither from the army nor industry any precise information on where and when they worked in Russia with chemical weapons. Society remains unaware of the size of the threat to our existence." In the opinion of Mr. Fedorov, people in Russia, and elsewhere in the world for that matter, "are being denied the opportunity to take an integral look at the country's military-chemical past and present: reserved for us are miserly crumbs of information. Meanwhile the MCC not only exists, but it is also totally unprepared to enter together with us into the next millennium; it cannot give up the idea that it can no longer hide the costly and highly dangerous chemical weapons toy, and that it will not be able to get a free ride on this any longer." Lev Fedorov stated that "it is necessary to campaign for the full declassification of documents once the country's leaders sign the convention renouncing chemical weapons, to look into our past and get rid of the old onus of secrets."

New Space Launch Center in Far East Planned

LD0903190994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1650
GMT 9 Mar 94

[Text] Russia plans to build a new space launch center in its Far East by the year 2000, Commander of Military Space Forces (MSF) General Vladimir Ivanov told Interfax.

He said its launching pads for environmentally-safe new-generation boosters would provide all necessary orbit inclinations which can now be achieved only at the Baykonur cosmodrome situated in Kazakhstan.

During a meeting with military attaches of other countries outside Moscow on Wednesday, Ivanov gave an overview of Russia's military space forces, calling for greater space cooperation with Russia. He said the MSF had 50,000 persons as well as launch pads and equipment designed for testing space-related hardware and launch spacecraft with the help of Russian-built light, medium and heavy class boosters such as Kosmos, Tsiklon, Vostok, Soyuz, Molniya, Zenit, Proton and Energia.

On the fate of the Baykonur facility, Ivanov said "we are well aware of the need to resolve the problem and would like to see it functioning in the future."

Deputy Defense Minister Gromov on Current Issues

944K0769A Moscow ARGUMENTY I FAKTY in
Russian No 8, Feb 94 pp 1, 5

[Interview with B. Gromov, deputy minister of defense of Russia, by V. Starkov; place and date not given: "Our Army Has Its de Gaulles"]

[Text] Colonel General Boris Gromov, Hero of the Soviet Union, needs no special introduction. Former commander of the 40th Army, he became renowned not only for having fought successfully in Afghanistan but also for having pulled the army out of there in militarily competent fashion, practically without losses. General Gromov is now deputy minister of defense of Russia.

[Starkov] You have a very handsome name. It resonates with something legendary. Do you know its historical roots?

[Gromov] I grew up in a family in which my ancestors, starting with my great grandfather, taught foreign languages. My father died at the front in 1943, two months before I was born.

[Starkov] Do you know any foreign language?

[Gromov] The curriculum at the Suvorov School in Saratov, where I was a student, allotted nine hours a week for the study of foreign languages.

In addition, for one whole day from reveille to taps everyone was required to communicate only in English

or French. I once spoke English well. But to speak a language fluently you need constant practice, which I have not had for a long time. Taking part in negotiations, though, I still understand my partner.

'The Putschists Did Not Confide in Me'

[Starkov] Following your return from Afghanistan, yours has been a complex fate. There have been ups and downs. There have continually been attempts to pin some labels on you and to involve you in something or other. You, on the other hand, remain one of the most outstanding and influential, but at the same time enigmatic political figures.

[Gromov] I have never shied from side to side or changed my position in deference to the current situation and have not bowed down before anyone.

[Starkov] On the eve of the August events you calmly went on leave. Does this mean that the putschists did not confide in the first deputy minister of internal affairs?

[Gromov] I was lucky, they truly did not confide in me. Because had they done so, they would have let me into some of their plans.

And then I was simply called back from leave and told: Come on, call off the troops. That is, attempts were made to make me, at my age and in my position and rank, a pawn.

Do you know what the internal troops are? They are units specially trained for street fighting. And then, based on my actual experience, I realized what was brewing and to what this could lead. And when I saw that these people, Yanayev, Pavlov, and the others, had made it their aim to seize the White House, which no one needed, I understood conclusively that this was all just an adventure.

[Starkov] You did not support the Emergency Committee. In other words, you felt that the time of Gorbachev, Yezov, and Kryuchkov was up?

[Gromov] Perestroika, which was pursued without any plan whatever, could not have produced positive results. A true politician should not resemble a soccer player, who runs faster than he thinks.

[Starkov] For a long time you were the personal representative of Marshal S. Akhromeyev in Afghanistan and, evidently, knew this person well. Are you not tormented by the mystery of his death?

[Gromov] Marshal Akhromeyev was, in my view, the conscience of the armed forces. A soldier of the front, he had devoted his whole life to strengthening the country's defense capability. He did a great deal for the army, particularly as chief of the General Staff. He was a very intelligent and most punctilious and decent person, who knew his business.

The collapse of the system was a real drama for people of the older generation, and for Marshal Akhromeyev, a tragedy. I do not believe he was afraid of being put on trial. He simply could not reconcile himself to the fact that everything he had lived for and had sacredly believed in would be demolished.

Afghanistan

[Starkov] Why did you go there a second time?

[Gromov] Marshal Akhromeyev had proposed that I head the group of representatives of the General Staff in Afghanistan. He needed unembellished reports on the actual situation in the country. In other words, use was made of the experience of the Great Patriotic War, when representatives of the General Headquarters endowed with special powers operated at the fronts.

[Starkov] What do you think, why was such a big country as the Soviet Union with a most powerful army not the winner in Afghanistan? Could we, generally, have won the Afghan war—there was already the experience of the Americans in Vietnam, after all.

[Gromov] Defeating a people by way of arms is impossible. In addition, this was not the mission given the limited contingent of Soviet troops. The 40th Army was to have supported the revolutionary regime in Kabul, neutralized the armed opposition detachments on the country's territory, and prevented their penetration of Afghanistan from abroad.

[Starkov] It would be sinful not to ask you about Rutskey. Did you know him from Afghanistan?

[Gromov] Of course. And, as army commander, I participated most actively in his release from captivity, when he had been shot down for the second time.

We had no news of him at all for several weeks. Thinking that Rutskey, deputy commander of the army air force, had died, I signed a recommendation for the posthumous conferment on him of the title of hero. Shortly afterward, military intelligence agents managed for a very large amount of money to learn that he had been taken prisoner, ascertained where he was, and immediately began to negotiate for his release.

[Starkov] So Rutskey was ransomed? For how much?

[Gromov] It was a large ransom—several million dollars. But when it is a question of a human life, no money is begrudged. Besides, Rutskey was an excellent pilot. But pilot and politician are different things.

Last October

[Starkov] So, blood is the symbol of the 1970's, 1980's, and 1990's. The military tried to avoid bloodshed both in Afghanistan and in August 1991. Could you not clarify the situation—what happened in October 1993?

[Gromov] I can say nothing in this connection because I was not a participant in the October events either. Nor

was I present at the well-known nighttime session of the Ministry of Defense Collegium.

[Starkov] You were not invited?

[Gromov] I was simply not there, I could not get there. Operational-strategic exercises codenamed Zapad began in the armed forces on 21 September, when the edict of the president was promulgated. Practically all forces stationed in the west of the country were taking part. These exercises had been planned back at the start of 1993. I first heard about the edict in Kaliningrad, having hardly disembarked from the airplane, from correspondents, who just about knocked me off my feet. They were demanding comment, and I did not understand what they were talking about.

[Starkov] You evidently weighed up the scenario in the October situation, for all that. Let us suppose that the army did not intervene. What would have happened next? There they are in the White House, we are here, the president is in the Kremlin....

[Gromov] It is essential to use the internal troops in such a situation. First, this is required by the law. Second, MVD troops are stationed in Moscow and in the vicinity, there are practically no army units in the capital. They are stationed far beyond the city.

The Dzerzhinskiy Internal Troops Division, in particular, is specially intended for operations in emergency situations on the territory of the capital. This is a crack formation. The servicemen—from the soldier through the commander of the division—have excellent professional training. Special subunits of the Dzerzhinskiy Division can in their helicopters be at any point of Moscow within 10 minutes, provided there is somewhere to land.

[Starkov] It is known that you and Yazov had a difficult relationship. How is it shaping up with the present defense minister?

[Gromov] Normally; we were in Afghanistan twice, for that matter. At first I was a divisional commander, he, deputy regimental commander. Then I was appointed commander of the 40th Army, General Grachev, commander of an airborne division.

[Starkov] Are there often attempts to set you at odds?

[Gromov] Yes, it should not be forgotten that we live in Russia.

Military Diplomacy

[Starkov] Your name does not correspond all that well to your image. You are not in principle a "loud" person—you are never at the center of rows. What issues do you handle in the Ministry of Defense?

[Gromov] I am responsible for all negotiating processes and relations with countries of the near abroad.

[Starkov] Which CIS republic has given you the most difficulty?

[Gromov] It is difficult everywhere. For a very long time we were unable to find a common language with the leadership of Ukraine. Problems of the use of strategic nuclear forces on the territory of Kazakhstan are proving hard to resolve. We are extremely concerned at the situation of the Russian-speaking population in the Baltic. The development of the situation in Tajikistan is causing particular concern. Events there are developing literally according to the Afghan script of 15 years back. Lest Russia become tied up there the same as in Afghanistan, it was decided to create in this region a coalition force with the participation of Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, and Tajikistan.

[Starkov] You often travel overseas together with Kozirev. Are there some subtleties in relations between you? Or do you attend the negotiations as representatives of two different departments and try not to notice one another?

[Gromov] Good interaction has been worked out, in my view. It is easy working with him—he is a composed and thoughtful professional.

[Starkov] Is the foreign minister a democratic individual?

[Gromov] Yes, but fairly strict also, perhaps.

[Starkov] You, more than other generals, are connected with policy, including foreign policy. Are you thinking of continuing your political career?

[Gromov] No.

[Starkov] It is precluded for you?

[Gromov] I am a professional military man and wish to deal with my field.

[Starkov] Do you know any promising people in the army? Are there such persons in the Ministry of Defense leadership?

[Gromov] Marshal Ye. Shaposhnikov declared recently on the "Commanders" program that he does not see a single de Gaulle in the army. There has to be. Especially since the Russian and French armies have a great deal in common.

[Starkov] Does this mean that a military dictator could emerge here, as in Chile?

[Gromov] De Gaulle was not a dictator, Chile is not Russia. When I left Afghanistan, in 1989, then from 1989 through 1991, everyone was prophesying that I would be a dictator. But I was convinced even then that dictatorship in Russia was out of date. At least, there are none such in the military, I believe. It is simply that after all the recent events, a person who would venture to assume such colossal responsibility will not be found.

[Starkov] How many are there in the Gromov family?

[Gromov] My wife and I have four children: Maksim, Andrey, and the twin daughters Valechka and Zhenechka. The eldest, Maksim, already has his own twins—a boy and girl. So in this respect I am a wealthy man.

P.S. General B. Gromov's book "Limited Contingent," chapters from which the paper intends to familiarize readers with in a coming issue, will be published by Progress Publishers at the start of next week.

Regional Affairs

Central Electoral Commission Chief on Regional Polls

LD1003102194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0830 GMT 10 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Text] Moscow March 10 TASS—Some 70 billion roubles have been sent to representative authorities of the regions for holding an electoral campaign, chairman of the Central Electoral Commission of Russia said today during a hotline telephone conference with heads of local government of subjects of the federation and of the Regional Electoral Commission. The topic of the telephone conference was their readiness for elections of regional authorities and local government bodies.

Ryabov pointed out that the sum was not sufficient, and that additional sums will be allocated after a federal budget for 1994 is adopted. On the whole, he continued, the Central Electoral Commission is not financing now elections in the republics. However, a draft document is expected to be signed by the president on the additional financing of the electoral campaign in some republics at their request. This refers primarily to Ingushetia.

Ryabov urged the authorities in the subjects of the federation to pay special attention to ensuring the legality of the electoral campaign. The first experience of holding elections in some regions was "not quite positive", as he put it. It depends on the local authorities, in the first place, to make the elections free and democratic. He said that the elections had not taken place in some subjects of the federation because of a low activity of electors. In some areas only 25 per cent of them came to the polling stations.

The right to take part in elections in accordance with party lists has not been put into effect in any of the regions. This, in the opinion of Ryabov, "is not promoting the consolidation of a multi-party system." He said that representatives of the Central Electoral Commission had visited a number of subjects of the federation in order to help organize the electoral campaign, and were going to visit more. According to Ryabov, some

deviations from the legislation were observed, including those connected with the wrong division into constituencies.

He believes it is necessary to enhance the role of the executive authorities in organizing the electoral campaign. They should explain that the new representative authorities, formed in accordance with the new Constitution, would be able to resolve many problems of everyday life of the population. In his opinion, "the level of activity of the population at the elections corresponds directly to the level of prestige of the authorities."

Speaking about elections to the local government bodies, Ryabov said that numerous proposals were coming to the Central Electoral Commission on postponing the elections till autumn. The commission believes that it would be reasonable. However, it would hardly be worthwhile to postpone elections in the areas, where there are only several days left before the elections and where both the authorities and the population are getting prepared for them in a normal way.

Zhirinovskiy's Lawyer on Court's Election Ruling

MK1003132094 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 10 Mar 94 p 2

[Yevgeniya Yakuta report: "V.V. Zh. Urges That He Be Involved in Legal Action"]

[Text] Yesterday marked the end to the 10-day deadline for filing appeals against the ruling by the Shchelkovo court, which deemed the elections in the Shchelkovo electoral district to be invalid. It is well known that Mr. Zhirinovskiy was elected to the State Duma in the district. His lawyer, S. Belyak, said that Zhirinovskiy was not involved in the criminal proceedings either as an interested person or as a plaintiff, hence, he did not have the right to appeal. According to S. Belyak, Vladimir Volfovich learned about the trial only from newspapers.

It seems that the case will come to the attention of an oblast court: the district electoral commission, against which the complaint was actually lodged, did file an appeal. V.V. Zh. [Zhirinovskiy] has left a statement at the oblast court objecting to the Shchelkovo city court's ruling and requesting that he be invited to attend the trial as an interested observer. According to S. Belyak, rumors about that have reached Nikolay Ryabov, whose reaction was strongly negative: Zhirinovskiy's lawyer quoted him as saying that "if everyone who failed to enter the State Duma turns to arbitration courts, there will be anarchy in the country!"

Developments in Petersburg Election Campaign

PM1003163994 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 10 Mar 94 p 2

[Yuriy Kukanov report under the "Elections in the Regions" rubric: "Competing 'City Fathers' Collect Signatures"]

[Text] St. Petersburg—Approximately 750 contenders for the title of city fathers are set to contest the 50 deputies' mandates in St. Petersburg's new organ of representative power at the 20 March elections. Out of 36 electoral blocs, a mere 17 have succeeded in passing through the pre-election sieve by collecting 35,000 signatures each. One of them, the Russian-Baltic "Common Sense" bloc, was disqualified at the start: 3,000 of the signatures supporting it were deemed invalid. Certain individuals demonstrated enviable initiative by subscribing to various electoral blocs and putting forward their candidacy in several districts at once.

The City Assembly will probably be an all-male club: There are just 90 women among those hungry for power in the Northern Palmyra. The overwhelming majority of candidates are civil servants, businessmen, and teachers from higher educational establishments and schools. Representatives of the creative intelligentsia and the mass media have expressed no particular enthusiasm.

As the election date draws closer, so the third estate's troubles increase. Legal wrangles between Federation Council Deputy Aleksandr Belyayev and Mayor Anatoliy Sobchak continue. The mayor has conceded and repealed the restriction on Federation Council members in the Statute on Elections to the City Assembly. The senator did not turn up for the most recent court hearing, so it was postponed once again.

Rudolf Kagramanov, chairman of the officially registered anti-bureaucratic party, continues to amuse the public. He brought an action against the Electoral Commission because not all of his 13 offices and titles were entered on the subscription list. One of these titles, for instance, is doctor of sensationalist sciences. The chief campaigner against bureaucracy collected just one signature in support of his bloc—his own. The suspicion is that Kagramanov's party and the electoral bloc combined have the same number of members. The only thing that is unclear is what can be going through the minds of the earnest people who are allowing this entire farce into the elections.

At times, the election campaign on the banks of the Neva River assumes criminal overtones. Unknown persons savagely beat up Petr Soshenko, leader of the group supporting Vice Mayor Vyacheslav Shcherbakov. The activist received repeated telephone calls and demands to stop campaigning. Local detectives are still looking for the culprits.

A sensational report was disseminated by the Federal Counterintelligence Service St. Petersburg Directorate Press Service. Staffers at the department for combating terrorism together with criminal investigation workers have detained four people suspected of murder. Among

them is Nikolay Bondarik, chairman of the local branch of the Russian Party. He is running for election to the City Assembly on behalf of the "Great Russia" bloc, which unites national-patriotic organizations.

Observers predict that the main struggle for seats in the City Assembly will unfold between the "Democratic Unity of Petersburg" bloc, the Communist Party of the Russian Federation, and the LDPR [Liberal Democratic Party of Russia]. Let me remind you that in December's Federal Assembly elections the liberal democrats won fewer votes in the city on the Neva than in other regions of Russia. Commenting upon this fact during his recent visit to St. Petersburg, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy stated that here, apart from the homeless and the mafia, under which category he classed scientists, lawyers, and artists, nobody voted for "Russia's Choice." As for voters worthy of the LDPR, they are few and far between in the northern capital.

Data from the St. Petersburg Sociological Scientific Research Center is interesting in this connection. In December the LDPR won 17 percent of the electorate's votes on the banks of the Neva. But according to the results of a city-wide telephone sample poll conducted at the end of January, only 9 percent of respondents gave an affirmative answer to the following question: "Will the success of Zhirinovskiy's party at the parliamentary elections help to improve matters in Russia?" Admittedly, it is still too early to conclude from this that the voters are starting to rid themselves of the liberal democratic charms. However, sociologists do record certain improvements in the public consciousness. So it is that, according to information produced by the poll, only three-fourths of the electorate would vote today as they did 12 December. Of those polled, 10 percent are not sure that they would make the same choice as before. And 7 percent would vote differently.

Upsurge in Moscow Unemployment Expected
PM1003145594 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Mar 94 p 3

[INTERFAX report: "More Entrepreneurs Please:"]

[Text] A sharp upsurge in unemployment is expected in Moscow in 1994, and as early as mid-year roughly 600,000 people can expect to be out of work. This was the focal point of a session of the Committee for Assisting in the Search for Employment under the capital's government.

It was noted that at present the city employment service has 40,000 job vacancies for the 16,000 officially registered unemployed in Moscow. Many of these, however, do not want to find a job because of miserly wages, increased demands by employers, and the simple fact of uninteresting work.

The capital's government has drawn up a number of measures capable of averting a sharp increase in unemployment in Moscow. Among other things, training for entrepreneurs seeking to set up their own businesses has been started for the first time.

Moscow Imposes 'Terms' for Chechnya Talks

*LD1003143194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1149
GMT 10 Mar 94*

[Text] Talks with Chechnya will take place if Chechnya observes two terms advanced by Moscow. First, Chechnya must stop accusing Moscow of imperial ambitions and, second, the talks must be guided by the agreement on the divisions of powers already signed between Russia and Tatarstan, an informed source in the

Russian president's staff told Interfax on Thursday. He said that Grozny has yet to respond.

He also noted that the Russian leadership was not planning to hold parallel talks with the Grozny officials and the Chechen opposition. In experts' estimate, parallel talks could strengthen the position of Ruslan Khasbulatov, who is currently staying in Chechnya and who is the shadow leader of the opposition. Ruslan Khasbulatov, who was recently released from Lefortovo prison, currently lives in his native village of Tolstoy Yurt near Grozny.

To quote this source, talks will begin after Chechnya accepts Moscow's terms. The Russian delegation will be led by Chief of the president's Staff Sergey Filatov and the Chechen delegation by Chechen State Secretary Aslanbek Akbulatov.

International Affairs

Nuclear Warhead Consignments to Russia Suspended

LD1103144294 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1400 GMT 11 Mar 94

[Text] According to Associated Press, Ukraine has announced that it is suspending the dispatch to Russia of nuclear warheads from missiles on its territory.

The agency cites a Ukrainian Defense Ministry statement issued on Friday [11 March]. Justifying this step, the Ukrainian ministry has accused the Russian media of disseminating confidential information on the transportation of the warheads from the Ukrainian territory into Russia. This is seen by the Ukrainian military as a threat to the safety of the nuclear materials due to be transported.

It was earlier reported that the first nuclear trainload arrived in Russia last Sunday.

State To Pay for Gas in Money, Property

MK1103112094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 11 Mar 94 p 1

[Rustam Narzikulov report under the "Protocol" rubric: "Ukraine Agrees To Pay Debts to Gazprom. It Can Only Pay in Property"]

[Text] Yesterday's talks in Moscow on clearing the debts for deliveries of Russian gas to Ukraine to the tune of 1.5 trillion rubles ended in the signing of a protocol defining the ways of debt settlement.

Ukraine is supposed to pay nearly half of the entire debt in money; in payment for the remaining part, Gazprom will receive a share in the authorized stocks of the gas transportation infrastructure enterprises (51 percent) and in a number of factories in which Gazprom is interested (51 percent). The facilities in question are in particular the export gas pipeline to Europe, subterranean storage tanks on the territory of Ukraine, and the Odessa port factory. The Ukrainian side made some concessions, agreeing to hand over property to clear off the already amassed debts rather than pay for future deliveries of gas, something with which Gazprom categorically disagreed.

The question of transfer of property to Gazprom is supposed to be considered by the Ukrainian side within a week. No deadlines on the payment of monetary debts was set, although the process of payment of the monetary debt is likely to be one of the main subjects of another meeting between the sides on 10 April to discuss the progress of implementation of the March protocol provisions.

Ukraine has no money, and its only real asset is property accumulated in the past years. Gazprom can therefore only hope for the material source of debt settlement

which, however, can be cut off at any moment under pressure from nationalist forces.

A high-ranking Gazprom official said that deliveries of gas to Ukraine resumed in the previous amounts right at the completion of yesterday's negotiations.

Zlenko: U.S. More Friendly Due to Nuclear Accord

LD1003232394 Kiev UT-1 Television Network in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 10 Mar 94

[Text] Today our correspondents interviewed Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko, who was in our delegation during the official visit to the United States by President Leonid Kravchuk.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Anatoliy Maksymovych, what can you say about the foreign policy results of the visit to the United States by Leonid Makarovych Kravchuk?

[Zlenko] Summing up this visit, I would like to say first of all that in general a positive atmosphere preceded this visit. This positive atmosphere was created by the signing of the trilateral statement on 14 January between the United States, Ukraine, and Russia. Naturally, to a certain extent this too affected both the course of the visit itself and the results of this visit.

However, if one is to speak about the main foreign policy results of this visit, then it seems to me that, first of all this visit made it possible to convince ourselves that a noticeable change has occurred in Ukrainian-U.S. relations, a change in relations on the part of the United States toward Ukraine being a friendly state, one capable of playing a stabilizing role in the region—I would even say that according to some publications of the U.S. press, a state that could play a significant role at the crossroads of Europe and Asia.

I would like to say that one may view as another main result of this visit the fact that the United States unambiguously stated its support for Ukraine's political and economic independence. The violation of this, say, important principle of support, as was said, could affect the strategic balance of the dislocation of forces in Europe. This visit and its outcome, its important or significant political results, were reached not at the expense of and not to the detriment of any state. [end recording]

Minority Rights Discussed With Israeli Official

WS1103090594 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 10 Mar 94

[Text] Oleksandr Yemets, Ukrainian minister for nationality and immigration, has met with Israeli Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubenstein. As the ministry's press center has reported today, the officials discussed issues concerning the protection of the rights of ethnic minorities in Ukraine. Oleksandr Yemets touched upon

possibilities of developing and deepening cooperation between Ukraine and Israel. Israeli Ambassador to Ukraine Tzvi Magen also attended the meeting.

Carrier Heads for Cuba With Humanitarian Aid

PM1003161594 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 10 Mar 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "As a Mark of Gratitude"]

[Text] Ukraine sent a consignment of humanitarian aid to Cuba yesterday. The Lilas Island, a bulk carrier chartered by the Cubans and flying the Panamanian flag, left the Ukrainian port near Odessa carrying 100 tonnes of powdered milk, 210 tonnes of canned meat, 50 tonnes of medicines, and other goods bound for Cuba. This consignment of humanitarian aid has been put together by several governmental and public organizations in Ukraine, notably the young people's fund "Children of Chernobyl." This is not the first such humanitarian action by Ukraine toward Cuba as a mark of gratitude for its participation in the treatment and recuperation of children affected by the Chernobyl accident.

National Affairs

Meshkov Abolishes Crimean Council of Ministers

LD1103143394 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 2120 GMT 10 Mar 94

[Text] Simferopol—On 10 March, Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov signed a decree on conducting a poll of citizens of the Republic of Crimea on 27 March, at the same time as elections to the Supreme Councils of Ukraine and Crimea. The document says: with reference to the constitutionally consolidated principle of the sovereignty of the people, in accordance with which the bearer of sovereignty and the only source of state power are the people, which are made up of citizens of the Republic of Crimea, and with the aim of taking account more fully of the will of Crimean citizens when resolving important state issues directly affecting the interests of citizens, in accordance with articles 2, 34, 129, and [number indistinct] of the Constitution of Crimea, I resolve:

1. To conduct a poll of citizens of the Republic of Crimea on 27 March.
2. To present the following questions to citizens of the republic of Crimea in a poll:

A. You are in favor of renewing the clause in the Constitution of the Republic of Crimea of 6 May 1992, which determined the regulation of mutual relations between the Republic of Crimea and Ukraine on the basis of a treaty and an agreement? (Yes or No).

B. You are in favor of renewing the clause in the Constitution of the Republic of Crimea of 6 May 1992, which declares the right of citizens of the Republic of Crimea to dual citizenship? (Yes or No).

C. You are in favor of granting the decrees by the president of the Republic of Crimea on issues that are temporarily unregulated by the legislation of the Republic of Crimea the force of law? (Yes or No).

Serhiy Tsekov, head of the Republican Party of Crimea, informed a UNIAN correspondent that the Republican Party of Crimea intends to picket the Crimea's Supreme Council session on 11 March in support of the decree, which has been signed.

On the same day [10 March] the president of the Republic of Crimea signed another decree abolishing the Council of Ministers of Crimea as a body of executive power. In the transitional period, which will last until a new government headed by Yevgeniy Saburov is formed, employees of the Council of Ministers will carry out their duties.

Defense Ministry on Russian Media 'Provocative' Statements

LD1003212094 Kiev UT-1 Television Network in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 10 Mar 94

[Text] Here is some information we have received from Ukraine's Ministry of Defense. It is a statement with the following content:

Recently Russia's mass media, in particular Interfax and the SEGODNYA newspaper, have been circulating information about the dispatch from Ukraine's territory of special trains carrying nuclear warheads which are to be handed over to the Russian side in accordance with Ukraine's international obligations. At the same time, with reference to informed sources in the Russian Federation's Ministry of Defense, data of a strictly confidential nature is being broadcast.

The ease with which some journalists, referring to the Russian military, disseminate information throughout the world on the times, dates, and destinations of the trains carrying nuclear warheads evokes surprise, especially as Russian specialists cannot but acknowledge the fact that such actions create a real threat to the safety of the transportation of nuclear warheads.

Ukraine's Ministry of Defense Press Service states that such actions are provocative and inadmissible because they are directed at creating a new spiral of tension around Ukraine's nuclear disarmament. Because of the lack of discipline among Russian information sources, Ukraine is now forced to make additional adjustments to the schedule and routes for the transportation of nuclear warheads.

Agreement on Crimea Joining Ruble Zone Denied

LD1003234994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2026 GMT 10 Mar 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature No. 47 (537) compiled by Nikolay Zhrebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] The press service of the Ukrainian president and Government circulated a statement refuting the existence of an agreement between Kiev and Simferopol concerning the Crimea's possible joining of the ruble zone.

"Such statements are no more than political speculation," the statement underlines.

The statement also says that the issues on "the state financial policy, including introduction of whatever currency regime, is within the exclusive authority of the Ukrainian state bodies rather than that of particular administrative territorial units."

Cabinet Decree Regulates Import of Hazardous Waste

AU1003182094 Kiev DEMOKRATYCHNA UKRAYINA in Ukrainian 3 Mar 94 p 1

[Unattributed report published under the rubric "Moment": "To Prevent Environmental Pollution"]

[Text] The Cabinet of Ministers has issued a decree on regulating the import into Ukraine and transit across its territory of waste products (secondary raw materials). The decree lists substances and materials, falling into the category of hazardous waste, whose import into Ukraine is banned, and establishes a procedure for issuing licenses for the import into Ukraine or transit across its territory of waste materials (secondary raw materials). It also determines that the import into Ukraine or transit across its territory of waste materials (secondary raw materials) without the permission of the Ministry of Environmental Protection is forbidden.

Nonparty Group To Observe Crimean Election Process

LD1003171494 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1031 GMT 10 Mar 94

[Text] Simferopol, [no dateline as received]—A UNIAN correspondent learned on 9 March that at the initiative of the Crimean Republican Human Rights Committee and also the Sevastopol and Yalta branches of this human rights organization, a branch of the general Ukrainian nonparty Committee of Electors has been created in the Crimean Republic. This committee considers that its main task is to contribute to the democratic elections to Ukraine's Supreme Council and the Supreme Council of Crimea, to check adherence to legislation in the process voting by citizens' and not to allow falsifications of the results of the elections.

The Committee of Electors stresses its nonparty affiliation, its impartiality with regard to parliamentary candidates and its independence of state and commercial structures. Members of the Crimean branch of the committee intend to observe the organization and holding of the elections and to take part in preparing and training voluntary observers at polling stations. The creation of

international observer stations on the basis of the committee's regional representations is also part of the organization's sphere of activity.

'Reforms for People' Bloc Established

WS1003200394 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 10 Mar 94

[Text] A Reforms for People bloc was established in Ukraine. It comprises the [word indistinct] experts from various branches of industry, specialists, and workers from key regions of our state. The aim of the new bloc is to stabilize the economy by implementing real market reforms, to increase the incomes of the population at the expense of reforming the financial and money systems and cutting down the nonproduction expenditures of the budget, to combat crime and corruption, and to protect rights and (honor) of individuals. The bloc is headed by well-known Ukrainian economist Volodymyr Lanovyy, president of the Center for Market Reforms.

Intelligence Chief Outlines Election Platform

WS1003153094 Lutsk NARODNA TRYBUNA in Ukrainian 26 Feb 94 p 4

[Interview with General Oleksandr Skypalskyy, chief of the Intelligence Department of the Ukrainian Defense Ministry, by Viktor Verbych; place, date not given: "State—Order—Prosperity"]

[Text] [Verbych] Oleksandr Oleksandrovych, there is no need to introduce you to our readers. The residents of Volyn Oblast respect you as their countryman and as a man who has contributed, and still contributes, to the strengthening of our state. Notwithstanding the fact that you are registered as a nonparty candidate for a deputy seat, certain political structures (let us recall, for example, a joint statement signed by the leaders of the Socialist, Communist, and Peasant Parties) have aimed their propaganda apparatus at General Skypalskyy.

[Skypalskyy] I am grateful to the leaders of the above-mentioned parties and, first of all, to Oleksandr Moroz [head of the Socialist Party], for evaluating me so highly. However, I do not care so much about it. According to current statistical data, 76 percent of Ukraine's population does not pay any attention to party activities today. I am sure that I will not go into any interparty quarrels by evaluating the activities of these organizations during the electoral campaign. I am running for a deputy's seat from my home constituency as an independent candidate. I have not come here to instruct the people — everybody knows how we are living. I have come here to show my gratitude to my countrymen. From them I inherited my love for the Volyn region and for all of Ukraine. Here in the Volyn region, I grew into manhood. I would like to repay this debt by my dedicated efforts for the strengthening of our state. For this purpose I have chosen the Vladimir Volynskiy constituency. I know the Luboml region very well; the ancient city of Vladimir is one of our spiritual capitals. One really feels that the city

was a center of the European state a thousand years ago. This has been preserved in the genes of our contemporary Volyn residents. We should make our Ukraine the same strong state.

[Verbych] Therefore, we would like to hear about the essentials of your election platform.

[Skipsalskyy] They are extremely simple. The content of my election platform can be summed up in three words: state—order—prosperity. As of today, we do not live in an independent state. We need hard work and, undoubtedly, an appropriate political position. On the other hand, we will never attain prosperity unless we introduce proper order. Raging crime, theft, cynicism in the legal system, anarchy, and predatory robbery of the people and state—all these evils must be urgently uprooted. In addition, it must be done ruthlessly and with purpose. Prosperity means an indispensable transition to market economy with social protection for the citizens. Prosperity means the economic independence of every individual.

[Verbych] Our citizens have already sunk into the sea of smooth-tongued words. Streams of words, failing to transform themselves into concrete actions, are pouring out of the mouths of state officials and would-be people's deputies. However, it seems that the people believe neither the former nor the latter. Quite frequently one can hear opinions that deliverance lies in rule by a "firm hand."

[Skipsalskyy] It is my opinion, too. Our people have every reason to speak like that. A state is impossible without order in society. True, the notion of rule by a "firm hand" has been deformed due to the cult of personality, everyday wrongdoings, and bloody class slaughter. The notion of "firm-hand" rule means an appropriate order and strong authority. Without these, we will not be able to build a democratic society. Nothing happens just on its own. One cannot just wake up in the morning and find oneself in an independent state; one cannot become a different man just like that. Why, after two years of honest and persevering labor of many hard-working men, do we see that the people are living in extremely difficult conditions, worse than they have even been? Because our citizens are working for the benefit of the state, which is being robbed more and more often. But the state, I will repeat myself, does not actually exist. We have lost our positions in the Crimea, in the Black Sea Fleet. We have been working amorphously, unresolutely; we thought that history would put everything in its proper place. But history will only record all our inactivity. While fully understanding our needs, we have not been able to speak of what we must do. But just try to do it if there is no division among the three branches of power—executive, legislative, and judicial. Not to mention the fourth power—the media—more precisely, the press which is filled with reproaches, tug-of-war games, and accusations...

[Verbych] And very often the press is in search of sensational stories, complying, so to say, to the demands of certain forces...

[Skipsalskyy] We are still pursued by the inertia of class struggle. We must be directed by the policy of state building. Those who contribute to this goal should not be defamed all the time, discredited, and raised against others...

[Verbych] We have to state today that among the electorate there is apathy, disillusion, and disappointment. One can often hear that the elections may not be held. That is to say, some of our citizens actually refuse to influence the path our state will take toward development. We forget that we are also to blame for today's difficult situation, because we are the ones who chose the people's deputies and the president. People say in despair: It makes no difference to us.

[Skipsalskyy] I do not believe that it makes no difference to them. Their hearts are bleeding and flaming. Regarding disillusion, it was also inherited from another historical epoch. However, I would not like to attribute it to the Ukrainian mentality. I am sure that the elections will be held. There is no other way for us than free elections. True, given the large number of candidates, people must select those who will really care about the state and the nation. This is the first version. The second one, extremely undesirable, is a rigorous army dictatorship. There is also a third one—enter Ivan from the north and says: "Well, Little Russians [term used by Russians to denote Ukrainians], residents of southern Russia, if you are incapable of building the state, we will help you." [passage in quotation marks in Russian] I am afraid of a recurrence of history. There may be one more version: In order to please Europe, Russia proposes to tear Ukraine to pieces. A shadow of danger is constantly hovering over us. As you know, certain politicians in Poland adopt statements making territorial demands. Similar forces exist in Romania and Hungary. I do not exclude the possibility that Ukraine may be partitioned along the Sluch or Dnepr rivers. This is no joking matter. One must assess today's real situation. We have to think and act if we are to take care of our descendants.

[Verbych] The world treats us in a peculiar way. Let us recall: The United States recognized the former Soviet Union just when communists provoked in Ukraine a famine that has no record in 20th century civilization. We also see the trends that dominate in Poland: For the first time since 1945, they put an officer from Eastern Europe on trial, and this is Ukrainian Major Lysenko. In addition, according to many political experts, the domestic situation in our state, in the wake of Meshkov's election to the Crimean presidency, will aggravate matters extremely: The trends toward autonomy will be made a major issue by certain political forces. Ukraine may face the prospect of being partitioned and divided by other states. Do you think that Ukraine can avoid a situation as that in Yugoslavia?

[Skipalskyy] There will be no such case as in Yugoslavia in Ukraine; the situation is quite different. The issue of federalization is a quite different topic. This issue is urgent for Russia which still remains an empire. With regard to the Crimea, this is a result of our miscalculations. As far back as 1991, I said: The Crimea has been bridled in order to continually tug the Ukrainian horse by the head. The "elder brother" will never accept Ukraine's significant advancement in economic development. However, we must be soberminded politicians: Russia is our neighbor, and we must cooperate in order to keep interstate relations friendly. From a geopolitical viewpoint, Russia is interested in Ukraine being a friendly state. Russia has enough problems in its relations with the Muslim world, as well as in domestic matters.

[Verbych] Your opponents long ago declared "war" on you. They ardently persuade: We are the very people whom the Ukrainian parliament needs. Oleksandr Oleksandrovych, in your opinion, what people should be elected to the Supreme Council?

[Skipalskyy] Undoubtedly, those people who actively contribute to the building of Ukraine, who carry the burden of provocative accusations, compromises. This is being done by ideological opponents and special services of those states that are not interested in Ukraine gaining strength. Our competitors, I will repeat myself, are capable of estimating worthy opponents. Let us recall that wise Ukrainian proverb: Lightning never strikes in the rotten oats. Regarding those calumnies against me, I never yield to a dog's barking. As for my opponents, I would suggest that they hold more fair arguments. I want to become a worthy representative of the Vladimir Volynskiy and Lukoml rayons in the Supreme Council to protect the interests of Volyn residents in such a way as not to make them ashamed of my speeches and actions. Working in the legislative body, I will try to support bills intended to protect citizens.

[Verbych] Oleksandr Oleksandrovych, you never were a stranger here in the Volyn region. I recall the time when there was a conflict ripening in Volodimir Volynskiy—the Interfront was just about to be launched—and you were the man who prevented a very dangerous clash.

[Skipalskyy] What is more, our former opponents constituted 90 percent of the electors who put me forward as a candidate. My concept is to consolidate. We have to unite ourselves to build the Ukrainian statehood regardless of nationality and party alignment. Our citizens should not be forced into a class struggle, as was done by Marxist-Leninist apologists. Only one category of citizens must be isolated in our society—criminals. Our recovery lies in the policy of statehood building, in statehood philosophy.

Disadvantages of Disarmament, U.S. Position Viewed

AU1103111394 Kiev UKRAYINSKA HAZETA in Ukrainian No. 5 (47) 3-16 Mar 94 p 8

[Article by Colonel Mykola Bilovil, UKRAYINSKA HAZETA military columnist: "We Will Never Give Away Our Lard or Our Missiles! Once Again About Ukrainian Nuclear Weapons"]

[Text] Ever since the question of eliminating Ukrainian strategic weapons arose, a song that I heard sung on the beach by a little girl has been haunting me: "The old woman took care of her old man as long as he had lard."

Nuclear weapons constitute our lard.

These are 46 SS-24 launchers, 130 SS-19 units, and about 40 heavy bombers TU-160 and TU-95 MS, for which 670 cruise missiles equipped with nuclear warheads are stored.

The availability of such quantities of powerful weapons has, in fact, placed Ukraine at the center of worldwide attention, to the extent that even the U.S. President overcame his reluctance and made a visit to Boryspil airport—our capital's air gate—to meet with President Leonid Kravchuk.

Some people triumphed on this occasion—a victory of our diplomacy—major foreign leaders are coming to us cap in hand. However, we should not be so naive! They will come to us and will try to please us as long as our "old man" president has that same "lard" that everybody wants. Since, as long as we have it, someone's [Russia's] hands are securely bound.

Isn't this clear? Who would care about us today and who would remember us in this time of economic troubles, if, by virtue of fate, we had not become heirs to those same strategic forces, which, over the long years of the "Cold War," helped maintain peace and quiet?

It is of interest to recall the evolution in U.S.-Ukrainian relations from the very beginning of the process of nuclear missile disarmament. At first, the frenzied pressure upon us: Give away all of your missiles or things will be bad for you! We gave away tactical weapons.... The world silently accepted our gift to Russia, but for us this only meant losses.

The pressure built up. At long last, we came to our senses and put forward conditions: security guarantees, financial assistance, and compensations. At first, nobody would even listen to us. Just behold that enfeebled Ukraine putting forward conditions! Even the first U.S. Ambassador in Ukraine Roman Popadyuk started threatening us: You are inviting fire.

We were not scared. We had enough common sense to uphold our position.

This time, the Tripartite Statement was signed in Moscow. However, here, too, we only got great promises in words and nothing specific in practice.

UKRAYINSKA HAZETA has written about all of these sudden changes around our lard, which is presently referred to as "Ukrainian snickers," since its first issue. It also stated that nuclear weapons have too much influence upon the world climate and that it should not be treated too lightly.

Even though we had been led to that same borderline where, it might seem, one could already echo Hemingway's "Farewell to Arms!" our parliament had enough brains not to make the last step leading to the abyss: The deputies voted against Ukraine's joining the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

Oh, how much excitement this caused in the Russian press, radio, and television! There was more mayhem about this in Russia than in the United States.

Why did Russia raise that outcry? Is it interested in our disarmament more than the United States is?

It appears so. How can it be otherwise? Belarus handed over its missiles and so did Kazakhstan. Stubborn Ukraine alone prevents Russia from becoming the only nuclear-missile queen on the territory of the former Warsaw Pact. There is enough in it to cause one to go out of his mind!

One important circumstance rendered the Russians particularly anxious: In 1995, the validity of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty expires. The future of this document will depend upon the decisions of an international conference. Unless Ukraine joins the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty now, this question may become irrelevant in its own right.

Russian papers write that, in such a case, the "domino theory" will work and quite a number of states will remain nuclear.

For my part, I want to ask: Why are you so concerned about the future? Don't you see that today, Israel, China, and North Korea are becoming nuclear powers? Or let faraway countries arm themselves, while nearby Ukraine must give away its nuclear warheads?

Incidentally, a few words about the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. It was approved by the UN General Assembly in 1968. Today, 158 states are signatories. The main objective of the treaty is to restrict the proliferation of nuclear weapons and to ensure international control over the fulfillment by the states of their obligations. For those who are signatories to the treaty and have nuclear weapons, these obligations mean that nuclear weapons or nuclear detonators should not be passed on to any other country, and nonnuclear states should not be encouraged to acquire nuclear arsenals. Those, who do not have such weapons, undertake not to receive them from others and not to manufacture them at home.

As one can see, there is not a single word on the relations of nuclear states among themselves. It follows from this that they may pass these deadly weapons to one another.

However, there is not a single allusion at the situation, which has taken shape in our country after the disintegration of the USSR. Ukraine was not a nuclear state, and strategic forces of the Union were deployed on its territory. Ukraine never was a participant in the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, because there was no need for it to be one. It appears that it made a bad error by signing the Lisbon Protocol, having thereby driven itself into a kind of trap. Had there been good will on the part of the world community, Ukraine's signature would have simply be canceled as legally invalid.

However, nobody cares now and everybody keeps demanding: Ukraine, get yourself into the noose that you have prepared for yourself. They are demanding, because they know that the unfortunate year 1995 will come, the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty will become ineffective, and Ukraine will have to declare itself a nuclear power and join the nuclear club.

It is true that our parliament ratified Article 5 of the Lisbon Protocol recommending Ukraine to join the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty as soon as possible. However, a question arises: On what terms? As a nuclear power or as a nonnuclear state?

Academician I. Yuhnovskyy stresses in UKRAYINSKA HAZETA that we are owners, but not masters of strategic complexes. This situation is also not provided for in the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. Why then should we join it and in what capacity?

In my opinion, we must state our position once and for all. Here, all international bodies should have helped us, if they had sincere and open intentions. We can see that all they do is making fabrications and trying hard to swindle us and bring us to our knees, so that they could then deal with a secondary and obedient state. What will then remain from our independence, which we have gained through such a painful process. Just recollections?

I do not believe that there is no way out from this extremely complicated situation, a way out that will be acceptable for everybody.

Is the Ukrainian state with such a great scientific and technological potential unable to deal with its own missiles? If there are too many of them, we must only leave the quantity we need and ensure their proper servicing, without aiming them at anyone. Let them remain on stand-by. The rest of the missiles must be dismantled, the fuel must be used for peaceful purposes, and the silos and frames of the launchers for economic needs. I fully agree with Ihor Rafayilovych [Yuhnovskyy].

All of this must be done by our own efforts. We are capable of doing this. Our scientists have already found a way to neutralize the extremely harmful component of

nuclear fuel—heptyl. At the same time, Americans proposed their assistance in processing the highly enriched uranium into low-grade uranium.

What else do we need? Money, perhaps? Right, and let Bill Clinton fulfill his promises.

It is hard to understand why we remain poor when we have such wealth. Other states put in much effort to extract uranium, and they sell it. We have nuclear fuel as the stuffing of warheads. Is it really more difficult to extract it from there than from mines?

I also have a question for new U.S. ambassador in Ukraine, Mr. W. Miller. If his country is really capable of providing us with considerable monetary assistance (on credit, of course), why doesn't it do it now instead of simply declaring its intentions?

Give us the necessary capital and we, jointly with U.S. entrepreneurs, will very quickly organize the processing of highly enriched uranium into low-grade uranium, will repay you with it, will provide our atomic plants with fuel, and will also sell it to Russia or exchange it for something there. This is a perfectly realistic project from which everybody will benefit. However, no way, Washington does not accept such a variant. It only has one demand: Give away your missiles, Ukraine. Then we will wipe our feet on you. Isn't it so, Mr. Miller? Please explain this to our readers and to our people. Explain honestly and openly.

Nuclear fuel is now in very short supply. In Russia—at the Smolensk, Leningrad, and Kursk atomic electric power plants [AES]—fuel reserves are coming to an end. At the Chernobyl AES, one power unit has already been halted. An energy collapse has set in. Or, perhaps, we are

being deliberately pushed into such a situation in order that we would later buy that same uranium, at any price, from the United States?

Answer this question, too, Mr. Miller.

Our president intends to ask between \$600 million and \$800 million from the United States. This capital might help us emerge from the crisis. However, there is little hope that this money will be obtained. Who needs a strong and powerful Ukraine?

As for those missiles that still remain in their combat positions, they could serve as a counterbalance until Ukraine joins the nuclear club and becomes, on that basis, a participant in the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. Following that and together with all other nuclear powers Ukraine will start disarming.

Between 3 and 8 March, L.M. Kravchuk will meet with Bill Clinton in the United States. Bill Clinton's letter, announced by our president at the Supreme Council session, led our parliamentarians to vote for removing reservations from the Article 5 of the Lisbon Protocol. In that letter, the U.S. President promised to double all types of assistance to us and even to take care of our missile officers. The latter is very important. Because, today, our commander of a rocket division gets 2.2 million coupons and a lieutenant in the Russian Army—190,000 rubles [figures as published].

However, will everything be the way we would like it to be?

Doubts, doubts.... That is why we would very much like our president to adopt the right line of conduct, so that all of us would not have to sing "the old woman took care of her old man as long as he had lard...."

Belarus**U.S., Hungarian Military Experts Hold Inspections***WS1003202894 Minsk BELAPAN in Belarusian 1600 GMT 10 Mar 94*

[Unattributed report: "United States Inspectors Are Staying in Minsk"]

[Text] BELAPAN has learned at the National Agency for Control and Inspection within the Belarusian Defense Ministry that a group of inspectors from the United States is staying in Belarus. This group, according to a pact on medium and short range missiles, is conducting an inspection of a missile complex in Kolosovo, Minsk Oblast. One more group of inspectors—from Hungary—left today for their motherland. According to the CFE treaty, this group conducted an inspection of the Bobruysk military hardware storage base No. 193.

Economic Agreements Signed With Uzbekistan*WS1103102994 Minsk RESPUBLIKA in Russian 10 Mar 94 p 3*

[Report by the Press Service of the Belarusian Council of Ministers: "Agreements With Uzbekistan Signed"]

[Text] An Uzbek Government delegation headed by Deputy Prime Minister Anatoliy Voznenko was on a working visit in our Republic. As a result of negotiations, an agreement on trade and economic cooperation for 1994 was signed between the Governments of the Republic of Belarus and the Republic of Uzbekistan, in which the parties state their desire for closer economic integration between the two countries.

The Belarusian Government and the National Bank also signed an agreement with their Uzbek counterparts on the regulation of debt settlements and terms in 1992-1993. Under this agreement, Uzbekistan acknowledges its \$13.98 million debt to our republic. This debt has been transferred to a state loan which Uzbekistan will begin repaying as of 1 January 1995.

Economic Cooperation Agreement Signed With Sweden*WS1003133394 Minsk BELAPAN in Belarusian 1206 GMT 10 Mar 94*

[Text] Today at the Belarusian State Committee for External Economic Relations, a meeting was held between Orjan Berner, Sweden's ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Russia and charge d'affairs to Belarus, and Uladzimir [name indistinct], chairman of the committee. In the course of the meeting, the officials exchanged opinions on prospects for economic cooperation between the two countries. The meeting was concluded with the signing of two Belarusian-Swedish agreements—one on trade and economic cooperation and another on avoiding double taxation.

Moldova**Agreement Reached on Gas Debt With Russia***LD1103131494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1139 GMT 11 Mar 94*

[Text] On Friday in Chisinau, Moldovan President Mircea Snegur and Deputy General Director Vilor Venkov of the Russian joint stock society Gazprom agreed Moldova would pay what it owed Russia for natural gas deliveries.

Shipments of high quality farm produce would take care of 30 billion rubles and Moldova would have to draw on loans from international organizations to pay off the remaining part of the 126 billion ruble debt.

To avert the repetition of what had happened, action must be taken to enforce, at last, the Commonwealth's economic accord. President Snegur suggested that the next Commonwealth summit remove all the barriers between the former Soviet republics.

Council Approves Bid To Join Partnership for Peace*LD1103101594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2032 GMT 10 Mar 94*

[Text] The Moldovan Security Council welcomed the initiative of Moldovan President Mircea Snegur to sign the NATO program Partnership for Peace in Brussels on March 16.

Speaking at the council's meeting, the president stressed that this program did not contradict the Declaration on Independence and Sovereignty of Moldova and the results of the sociological poll on the sovereignty of Moldova. "These documents provide for cooperation between all countries of the world in many ways," he emphasized.

Snegur also pointed out that the intention of Moldova to neutrality must not isolate it before possible political or other cataclysms. According to him, the signing of the NATO program did not mean that Moldova would immediately reorientate itself to the West. "Our economic and political priorities will remain the same—enlargement of mutually beneficial relations with all countries of the world, including the CIS republics," the president reassured.

Snegur Comments on Statehood, Sovereignty Vote*LD1103000894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2026 GMT 10 Mar 94*

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature No. 47 (537): Compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy; Edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] President Mircea Snegur is convinced that "most people want to take part in building an independent and sovereign state" as indicated by last Sunday's poll results.

IF Note: More than 95 percent of Moldovans voted in favor of the country's statehood and sovereignty in the Sunday poll as compared to a mere 2 percent who were against. 2.6 percent of ballot papers were invalidated. 1.8 Mn people or 75.1 percent of those eligible to vote were involved in the poll to answer a single question: "Do you agree that Moldova should develop as an independent, integral and indivisible state within the borders that existed on June 23, 1990 (the day it proclaimed independence from Moscow) and pursuing neutral policies, maintaining cooperation with all other countries and guaranteeing its citizens equal rights in keeping with international law".

Leader of the Agrarian Democratic Party [ADP] Aurel Tolmatskiy believes the poll results create a solid basis for the new parliament's activity.

In an interview with Interfax, he said "the need to consult the nation on key issues of the republic's development so as to put an end to the manipulation of public opinion is long overdue". Tolmatsky said the poll results were an indication that most people were supportive of

the policy aimed at consolidating the republic's statehood, independence and integrity.

He stressed that this was completely in line with the position taken by his party which won 55 out of 104 seats in the new parliament in last month's election, while the Sunday poll reaffirmed support to ADP policies.

On Snegur's suggestion on giving the poll the status of a referendum, Tolmatskiy said the new legislature might well adopt such a resolution. However, he said that this in itself was less important than learning the real mood on the ground so as to get on with the work in hand by leaning upon the nation's support.

Snegur Denies Suspending Trade With Romania

AU1103122194 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1100 GMT 11 Mar 94

[Text] Moldovan President Mircea Snegur has not issued and does not intend to issue a decree on suspending barter trade between Romania and the Republic of Moldova, a press statement received today from the Press Office of the president of Moldova emphasizes.

Regrets are expressed that, without prior verification, this piece of news published by TARA newspaper on 5 March was repeated by the media in Bucharest.

Kazakhstan**Election Victory for Nazarbayev Reported***LD1003163594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1609 GMT 10 Mar 94*

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Moscow March 10 TASS—Supporters of Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev overwhelmed opposition in republic's parliamentary elections held on March 7. Only 23 seats in the new 177-seat legislature went to representatives of different opposition parties, according to the data released on Thursday by the Kazakh Embassy in Moscow.

About 75 per cent of Kazakhstan's voters took part in the polls, the release said.

Denial of Election Improprieties*LD1003183094 Almaty Kazakh Radio Network in Russian 0700 GMT 10 Mar 94*

[Text] Some media, with reference to the opinion of foreign observers, reported that the election held in Kazakhstan was not democratic. Our correspondent met Talgatbek Abaidildin, a member of the Central Election Commission, and asked him to clarify this information. This is what he said:

[Begin Abaidildin recording] In our republic there were 10,224 polling stations. Foreign observers visited about 30 of them, mainly in the city of Almaty, the town of Kapchagay [Almaty Oblast]. In my opinion, it is at least unethical on the part of observers to draw conclusions that the election in the republic of Kazakhstan was not democratic. When we spoke to the journalists, their group did not have unanimous opinions. For instance, I can show written references from other observers that testify to the opposite. They say that the election in Kazakhstan was democratic. Yes, we did have some facts of negligence, even transgression at some polling stations. Currently the Central Election Commission is taking measures. If the [election] code has been violated, we might hold results obtained at these stations as invalid. Our foreign observers, on the whole, expressed their gratitude to the president of the republic and to the Foreign Ministry, as well as to the Central Election Commission for this invitation and for the official possibility given to them. We are not hiding anything from them. This attitude disarmed them. When coming here, they thought that Kazakhstan's sovereignty is very new, this is the first ever election code and there might be many discrepancies. I might be mistaken but they certainly had some prejudices. But they saw for themselves that we are open, we speak openly at all levels, literally. This has disarmed them. Yesterday evening we talked to the head of the CSCE group and he said that they would pass on to us some of their wishes, but in general they are satisfied with their visits to the polling stations and the procedural side of the election. But

[word indistinct] it turned out to be different. I do not think there were any serious transgressions or any remarks about serious mistakes made. But in any case we will work on these remarks in order to avoid such mistakes in future. [end recording]

No Reason Seen To Cancel Results*LD1103000294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2026 GMT 10 Mar 94*

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature No. 47 (537): Compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy; Edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] "The parliamentary elections conducted in Kazakhstan on March 7th were the most democratic and just, considering the socio-economic and political conditions prevailing in the young sovereign state," the chairman of the Central Electoral Commission, Karatay Turysov, told Interfax. "There are no reasons for cancelling the election results or for recognizing them as null and void," he stressed.

According to Turysov, observers from the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), who criticized the election system and pointed to a number of violations in the course of voting, have not informed him of their conclusions officially, and therefore he finds it impossible to comment on "what he knows by hearsay."

IF Note: The conclusion that Monday's elections were "undemocratic" was voiced at a news conference in Almaty by a spokesperson for the CSCE bureau for democratic institutions and human rights, Elizabeth Winship. She thinks this was largely because political parties, movements and candidates did not have enough time to organize the election campaign, and because the system of registering party candidates was confused. According to the CSCE spokesperson, during the elections some voters cast ballots for several people; some lists of voters were in duplicate; some ballots were substituted by commission members. CSCE experts also noted violations on the part of officials from the Central Electoral Commission, who revoked independent candidates under different pretexts, and pressure exerted on district commissions by local administration officials. Besides, CSCE experts believe that the list of candidates compiled by the president "ensured 20% of parliament seats for people from government structures from the outset".

As the Central Electoral Commission chairman said, the so-called "presidential list" of candidates for parliamentary elections (64 persons), which was criticized by international observers, had been submitted in accordance with the electoral code. It included prominent writers, scientists and economists, "and very few representatives of government structures."

Having conceded that abuses did take place in the course of elections—a man cast ballots for his entire family, for instance—Turysov pointed out that they cannot serve as

grounds for cancelling the election results. Several commissions have been formed to inspect concrete statements concerning violations.

The elections were attended by 125 observers from France, Germany, Russia, Kyrgyzstan and other countries, Turysov stressed. They all evaluated the elections positively.

When asked if Kazakhstan will invite CSCE observers to its next elections, Turysov said that the CSCE is an authoritative organization, and Almaty will undoubtedly send invitations to its observers.

Agreement Signed With Japan on Nuclear Weapons

LD1103100394 Almaty Kazakh Radio Network in Kazakh 0900 GMT 11 Mar 94

[Text] Today an agreement was signed between the governments of Kazakhstan and Japan with regard to cooperation in elimination of the nuclear weapons due to be dismantled in the Republic of Kazakhstan as well as setting up of a cooperation committee for this purpose. The document was signed by Foreign Minister Tuleutay Suleymenov and the Ambassador of Japan to Kazakhstan. This is a comment given by the Kazakh minister :

[Begin Suleymenov recording] We have signed an agreement with [word indistinct] and the Lisbon Protocol in accordance with which we are a part of an agreement [words indistinct] weapons which we have inherited from the former USSR.

We need tremendous sums of money for which our young republic has no finance, and our economy can not cope with it. The agreement we have just signed represents good will on the part of the Japanese government and the Japanese nation who put forward this initiative to Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, and Kazakhstan and which want to render financial assistance, to participate in the process of elimination of nuclear weapons located on these territories.

The Japanese government is allocating a total of about \$100 million for all four states—for Russia, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, and Belarus. Kazakhstan was the last to sign this agreement. In the near future, at the end of this month, the Japanese government will examine the matter. The share to be received by each country will depend on the decision taken by the Japanese government. We cannot say now whether these shares will be equal. It will depend on the country, on the type of nuclear weapons in these states, and the expenses connected with dismantling. [words indistinct]

Besides, it is essential for Kazakhstan that this agreement envisages facilitation in tackling relevant environmental problems in the area of deployment and testing of nuclear weapons. In particular, this relates to the Semipalatinsk region.

In the second half of March a group of experts of the Japanese Foreign Ministry is expected to visit Almaty to study the problem in full detail and meet relevant ministries and departments. This is a positive development on the eve of the official visit to Japan by our president in the first 10 days of April.

Presidential Edict Abolishes Free Economic Zones

LD1003215494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1317 GMT 10 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Amangeldy Akhmetimov and Gennadiy Kulagin]

[Excerpts] Almaty, 10 Mar—The decisions of the Kazakhstan Supreme Council on the setting up of free economic zones in some oblasts have been made invalid. An edict to this effect was signed by President Nursultan Nazarbayev who was granted additional powers by the former parliament until the opening of a new parliament.

This move was officially explained by the fact that measures are being introduced in the republic to streamline and balance the budgetary system. Asked by ITAR-TASS if this was a deviation from the course of reforms in the economy, authoritative experts from the presidential apparatus said that the existence of the free economic zones had resulted in unbalanced budgets at various levels. [passage omitted]

The experts believe that given the grave financial situation in the country, it is more expedient to have just limited and localized free economic zones. The edict did not affect these.

Kyrgyzstan

Academy To Monitor Chinese Nuclear Testing Range

LD1003172294 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1200 GMT 10 Mar 94

[Text] The laboratory of atmospheric processes of the Kyrgyzstan Academy of Sciences' Physics Institute has been tasked with monitoring the effects of activity at the Chinese Lob Nor nuclear testing range on the neighboring territories in Kyrgyzstan.

A RIA correspondent has learned at the government press service that an agreement to this effect was signed today between the Academy of Sciences and the republican government's State Commission for Emergency Situations and Civil Defense.

'Influential Centrist' Parties Demand Reforms*PM1003104194 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 10 Mar 94 p 1*

[Unattributed report under "Current News" rubric: "For Order in the Country"]

[Text] The leaders of two influential centrist parties in Kyrgyzstan—the Republican People's Party and the "Kyrgyzstan' Democratic Movement"—have demanded that the republic's authorities resolutely reform the economy and impose order in the country. A document made public in Bishkek points out that "the extremely grave crisis situation" has made them take this step.

The parties demand, in particular, that measures be taken to halt the production slump, that key state management posts be filled by specialists as soon as possible, regardless of their nationality or tribal allegiance, and that pensions and benefits for the needy be increased. The document also demands that the government devote the maximum attention to carrying out spring field work.

Support Sought for Akayev's 'Free Land' Reforms*LD1003115694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1117 GMT 10 Mar 94*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Maynaye—quotation marks as received]

[Text] Bishkek March 10 TASS—About a hundred of picketers, members of the association of Kyrgyz free farmers and agricultural entrepreneurs, met in front of the government palace in Bishkek today to demand government support for President Akayev's decree on free land transactions. They also called for cutting short all intervention hampering reforms in agriculture.

The picketers, who are participants in the congress of the association, which opened in the Kyrgyz capital today, decided to make their views known to the government and the public on the very first day of the gathering.

Their representative Askarbek Bazarkulov said "the government headed by Apas Jumagulov has not justified our confidence, because it is only paying lip service to reforms in agriculture.

"We ask only one thing—that they do not interfere with our activity and give us loans. The 150 million soms (about 15 million dollars) allocated to agriculture recently has been wasted in supporting unviable collective farms, and only ten million soms (about 1 million dollars) of that amount of money were given to private farmers.

"We, free land owners and farmers, have not received anything", said Askarbek Bazarkulov, one of the organizers of Kyrgyz peasant movement.

The congress is expected to raise a question about the resignation of the republic's government.

Tajikistan**Russian Guards Said To Destroy Group at Border***LD1003184894 Moscow Nezavisimoye Televideniye Television in Russian 1600 GMT 10 Mar 94*

[Text] We have received a report from Boris Koltsov, our special correspondent in Tajikistan, who together with his cameraman, Viktor Cherbakov, was at the center of today's events in the 13th subunit of the Moscow border detachment. Around 60 people crossed the border today from the direction of Afghanistan. At 0800 local time the border detail went into battle, together with a Tajikistan national security detachment. The majority of the group were destroyed.

It is possible that at 2200 we will receive a report from the scene. We hope so.

Up to 6 People Reported Killed*LD1103005394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2048 GMT 10 Mar 94*

[Text] As many as six people from a military group of the Tajik opposition and Afghan Mojahedins were killed during the attempt to break through the Tajik-Afghan border near the Eleventh control post of the Moscow Border Guards' detachment on Thursday.

Well informed sources in Dushanbe told Interfax that a military group of about sixty people armed with mortars, hand-held infantry anti-tank rocket launchers and automatic guns, had tried to cross the Pyanj River. A unit of the Tajik Security Ministry resisted the attack. One serviceman of the government's forces was wounded.

This was the biggest Islamic military group which tried to break through the Tajik-Afghan border since the beginning of the year.

According to military sources, groups of ten to fifteen people try to break through to Tajikistan every day. The situation may significantly deteriorate in April.

Deputy Prime Minister Assassinated at Home*LD1103060594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0545 GMT 11 Mar 94*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe March 11 TASS—Tajikistan's Vice-Premier Mayonsho Nazarshoyev was shot and killed in his apartment in the early hours on Friday.

Unidentified assassins were armed with an automatic gun, a source on the information department of the Tajik Ministry of Foreign Affairs told ITAR-TASS.

The sources promised more information later.

Leadership Offers Condolences

LD1103101794 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 0800 GMT 11 Mar 94

[Text] The presidium of the Supreme Council and the presidium of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Tajikistan announce with great sorrow that Moyonsho Nazarshoyev, people's deputy, member of the presidium of the Supreme Council of the republic, and deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Tajikistan, [words indistinct] was killed yesterday.

The leadership of the Republic of Tajikistan expresses its condolences to his relatives and friends.

Described as 'Planned Terrorist Act'

LD1103112494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0935 GMT 11 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe, 11 Mar—Kozidavlat Koimdodov, deputy chairman of the republican Supreme Soviet, described the murder of Moyonsho Nazarshoyev, deputy chairman of the Tajikistan Council of Ministers, as "a planned terrorist act."

Let me remind you that the 64-year-old Nazarshoyev, a native of Gornyy Badakhshan, was shot with an automatic weapon last night by unknown persons, in the courtyard of his own home. Twenty bullets were fired at him. The criminals escaped.

The deputy parliamentary speaker said today in an exclusive interview to an ITAR-TASS correspondent that it was an attempt to destabilize the social and political situation in the region, to wreck the process of peaceful political dialogue between the republic's official authorities and representatives of the opposition.

A senior source in the Tajik Government, who wishes to remain anonymous, said in an interview to an ITAR-TASS correspondent that he does not rule out that there will be a series of terrorist and subversive acts in the republic against well-known political figures and against the general public in the immediate future. He said "a kind of 'fifth column' opposition exists in the Tajik capital and its suburbs numbering many hundreds." Recently, "Tajikistan's special services got hold of a coded message from representatives of the so-called

irreconcilable opposition in Afghanistan recommending that terrorist acts against the Tajik leadership be stepped up."

Uzbekistan

External 'Subversive' Activities Cause Concern

LD0803121094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1058 GMT 8 Mar 94

[Text] The Uzbek Interior Ministry expressed concern over what it called "the subversive activities" pursued by politicians who had left the country. In a statement made public Tuesday the ministry said that "certain megalomaniac figures who left Uzbekistan have started attempts at destabilizing the republic."

"Slandorous literature" on alleged human rights violations in Uzbekistan is said to be smuggled into the country through channels which are used to traffic weapons and narcotic drugs. The overall aim, the statement said, is to "discredit the policies of the Uzbek leadership and sow panic and ethnic tension."

The ministry promised to do its best, jointly with other law enforcement agencies in the country, to put an end to the subversive activities.

No names are mentioned in the statement. Leaders of the Birlik popular movement, the Erk democratic party and the human rights society who have left the country over the last two years accuse the Uzbek authorities of having installed a totalitarian regime.

Iranian Envoy To Discuss Afghanistan Issues

LD1003233694 Tehran IRNA in English 2208 GMT 10 Mar 94

[Text] Moscow, March 10, IRNA—In a meeting in Tashkent, capital of Uzbekistan today, Iran's special envoy Taherian and Iranian Ambassador Mohammad Musa Hashemi-Golpayegani met with Uzbek Deputy Foreign Minister Shahabuddin Siyamov and emphasized on settlement of the Afghan clashes and safeguarding of that country's territorial integrity.

They also reviewed the latest developments in Afghanistan and the stances of the two countries towards the issue.

Taherian in continuation of Tehran's efforts to settle the Afghanistan crisis is to leave Tashkent for Kabul to meet with the Afghan leaders.

He is carrying a message from Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati for the Afghan leaders.

Armenia**Azeri Attacks and Shelling Reported in Karabakh***NC1003183994 Yerevan Radio Yerevan International Service in Armenian 1630 GMT 10 Mar 94*

[Text] Tension persists in some sectors of the battle front in Karabakh. The Azerbaijani side is not abandoning its attempts to break through the Karabakh's defensive line at the southeastern sector of the conflict zone.

The enemy tried to launch an infantry attack against the Karabakh positions east of Martuninskiy Rayon on the evening of 9 March. Having countered a retaliation and suffered losses, the Azerbaijanis retreated to their initial positions. This was reported by the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic Defense Army Press Service.

The same source also reported that intensive shelling of the Karabakh positions in Martuninskiy and Fizulinskiy rayons resumed this morning. The Armenian side resorted to counter operations. There are also reports of Azerbaijani military losses in these sectors of the front.

Azeris Trying To Break Defenses*LD1003150294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1149 GMT 10 Mar 94*

[Text] Azeri troops are not giving up attempts to break through the defenses of the Karabakh army in different parts of the Armenian-Azeri conflict zone. This was reported to Interfax by the press service of the defence army of Nagorno-Karabakh.

According to the press service, at 21:00 on Wednesday Azeri formations opened mass rocket and artillery fire at Karabakh positions in the Martuni Region. On Thursday morning intensive shelling began in the south-west of the conflict zone.

The press service also reported the concentration of Azeri troops in Fizuli and Martuni directions. The command of the Karabakh army is fighting back.

Meanwhile, the Azeri Defence Ministry reports Armenian attacks in Fizuli region of Azerbaijan in the direction of the strategic railway station Goradiz as well as shellings of communities in Ter-Ter and Agdam regions.

Karabakh Seeks To Stop Killing of Armenian POW's*NC1003213694 Yerevan SNARK in English 1046 GMT 10 Mar 94*

[Text] Stepanakert, March 10 (SNARK)—Today, Press-Service of the Nagorno-Karabakh Supreme Soviet spread the text of appeal to the international law-defending and peace-making organizations to contribute to influence the Azerbaijani authorities to immediately stop killing Armenians taken by Azeris as the POW and hostages.

Gayane Arustamyan, Press-Secretary of the Nagorno-Karabakh Supreme Soviet, told SNARK Azerbaijan is always violating the international conventions demonstrating inhuman attitude to the POW and hostages.

Ms. Arustamyan mentions the facts of non-extraditions of bodies of those Armenians who were killed in prisons of Azerbaijan, bringing as an example the case of Hrachik Petrosyan, born in 1954, died as a result of tortures on January 5, 1994, in Baku.

The Azerbaijani authorities, underlines Ms. Arustamyan, prevent the representatives of International Red Cross to get acquainted with the conditions the POW and hostages live in. In connection with it the international control should be organized to keep strictly the rights of the POW and hostages.

Baburyan Says Karabakh Supports Cease-Fire*NC1003203194 Yerevan SNARK in English 1143 GMT 10 Mar 94*

[Text] Stepanakert, March 10 (SNARK)—The Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh comes out for the immediate cease of fire and the beginning of constructive negotiations on peaceful settlement of the conflict, the effective guarantees of non-resumption of hostilities provided, told SNARK today the temporary Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Nagorno-Karabakh Karen Baburyan.

However the latest political moves of Azerbaijani leaders testify, in his words, that official Baku still relies on force methods of solving the problem, which is equally bad for the Armenian and Azerbaijani people.

This, continued the Head of Karabakh Parliament, can be proved by such facts, as torpedoing of Russian and CSCE peaceful initiatives, intensive buying-in of arms, using of foreign mercenaries and military instructors. Such a policy of Baku, stressed Baburyan, does not in the least serve the cause of peace in the region. Moreover, it can, in his opinion, lead to serious destabilization of the situation in Azerbaijan itself.

Religious Leader Urges President To Work for Peace*NC1003191494 Yerevan Radio Yerevan International Service in Armenian 1630 GMT 10 Mar 94*

[Text] The Catholicos of All the Armenians Vazgen I sent a letter to President of Armenia Levon Ter-Petrosyan in which he expressed his concern and anguish over the Karabakh war, which is exacting enormous losses both from among the Armenian freedom fighters defending Karabakh and from the Azerbaijanis.

The Armenian patriarch notes that during his meeting with Azerbaijan's Sheikh-ul-Islam Pashazade in Switzerland and then in Moscow, they issued a joint statement calling on the conflicting sides to end the war. However, that call has so far produced no result. The Russian

Orthodox Church Patriarch Aleksiy II sent a letter to the Catholicos with the same comments.

At the conclusion of his letter to the Armenian president, the Catholicos of All the Armenians writes: This is the mission that we are trying to fulfill by writing this letter to you and to our fatherland's government, by calling on you, Mr. president, to avail yourself of your prestigious position and act as a mediator to assist in the peaceful resolution of the distressful Karabakh problem. We believe that this is also the wish of our afflicted people living in the fatherland. We wholeheartedly wish patriotic energy and noble inspiration to you and to the Republic's government and parliament to reach the harbor of peace.

[Signed] With blessings, Vazgen I, the Catholicos of All the Armenians.

Azerbaijan

Strain in Armenian-Georgian Relations Reported

NC1003192494 Baku Azerbaijan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 9 Mar 94

[Text] In a news conference in Moscow, Armenian Foreign Minister Vahan Papazyan leveled accusations against the Georgian Government. He claimed that allegedly the rights of the Armenians in Akhalkalakskiy and Akhaltsikskiy rayons—where the Armenians are the majority of the population—are being violated. Tengiz Sigua, the former Georgian prime minister and now a deputy at the Georgian Parliament, speaking during the parliament session on 8 March, expressed serious concern regarding such accusations. It was stated during the session that unless urgent measures are taken this region of the Republic could become a second Karabakh.

It seems that the Armenians, who have always looked upon foreign territories with heinous intentions, have now coveted the territory of another neighbor. Unless their covetous approach is obstructed, they will continue to claim other territories.

Attacks on Fizulinskiy Front Said Repulsed

NC1003171494 Baku Azerbaijan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 10 Mar 94

[Text] The Defense Ministry Press Service has reported that there is no end to the attempts by Armenia's Armed Forces to break through the defensive line of the Azerbaijani Army. The enemy has been attacking our positions in Fizulinskiy Rayon since yesterday. The Azerbaijani Armed Forces' units have succeeded in repulsing all these attacks. Having suffered heavy losses, the enemy was forced to withdraw to its initial positions.

The shelling of our cities in the northwest of the Republic from Armenian territory is continuing.

Baku Cease-Fire Assurances Termed Propaganda

LD0903165294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1339 GMT 9 Mar 94

[Text] Murad Petrosyan, chief of the political section of the Nagorno-Karabakh defense army, believes that Baku's official assurances of its adherence to the cease-fire agreement since March 1, reached under the mediation of Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev, are of a purely propagandistic nature.

In his interview with Interfax, he reported that shelling of Karabakh positions is going on every day. Moreover, in his words, "while waging active offensive operations, the Azerbaijani party deliberately creates obstacles on the way to any peacemaking efforts by referring to the existence of various approaches to settling the conflict: CSCE's and Russia's one."

Petrosyan expressed conviction that "if to throw away the screen of words and to judge just by deeds, then it becomes clear that Baku's true goals remain the same, to force a solution of the Karabakh problem by military means."

That is why, Petrosyan said, the Karabakh party is so anxious with respect to guarantees and provisions for Nagorno-Karabakh's security and is circumspect about peaceful statements voiced by Azerbaijani leaders.

Envoy Holds News Conference on Settlement

LD1103115894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1649 GMT 10 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Moscow, 10 Mar—One of the conditions for a settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict is the liberation of the Azerbaijani territory seized by the Armenians. This was stated at a news conference today in Moscow by Ramiz Rizayev, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Russia. He noted that the main difference between the warring sides over implementation of the protocol on a cessation of military actions and the withdrawal of troops from 1 March this year, which was signed on 18 February by the Azerbaijani and Armenian defense ministers and a representative of the armed formations of Nagorno-Karabakh under the mediation of the Russian defense minister, is disagreement over the starting points for the withdrawal of troops.

According to the ambassador, the Armenian side believes that the troops should be withdrawn from the positions they now occupy. Azerbaijan is insisting that the administrative boundary of Nagorno-Karabakh be accepted as the starting point for the withdrawal of troops.

To achieve peace, it is, first of all, necessary to have a cease-fire and for Armenian troops to withdraw from the Azerbaijani territory they have seized, and then for the troops to be separated and a mutual security zone

created under the strict supervision of mediators and observers, the ambassador said. Only after these conditions have been fulfilled, will it be possible to get down to a political dialogue and to seek ways to reach a comprehensive settlement of problems, Rizayev noted. He denied reports that mercenaries from Russia are fighting on Azerbaijan's side. "We have sufficient manpower of our own. If there are Russians fighting, they are inhabitants of Azerbaijan or those who remained there after the reorganization of the USSR army," Rizayev said. He also rejected reports about the involvement in Azerbaijan's army of mercenaries and advisers from Iran, Turkey, and Afghanistan.

Asked by the ITAR-TASS correspondent about the possibility of Russian peacekeeping forces being introduced into the conflict zone, the ambassador noted that "we have nothing against this in principle, but it would be desirable to involve the peacekeeping forces of other states so that it is not only Russian peacekeepers that are put at risk."

Interviewed on Border Issues

LD1003222294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1927 GMT 10 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Moscow March 10 TASS—The issue of joint protection of CIS external borders on Azerbaijani territory cannot be addressed until after Nagorno-Karabakh settlement and liberation of the Azerbaijani lands seized by Armenia, Azerbaijan's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary in Russia Ramiz Rizayev said in an exclusive interview with TASS on Thursday.

"There is no external threat to Azerbaijan at the moment, a threat comes from inside the CIS, from Armenia", the ambassador stressed. According to him, under the present circumstances Azerbaijan's borders with Turkey and Iran should be regarded first of all as its external borders, and only then as external borders of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Last September, Azerbaijan became a full-fledged member of the Commonwealth and joined the Collective Security Treaty. However, no mutually acceptable schemes for ensuring the safety of Azerbaijan's borders with Turkey and Iran have been worked out so far. These borders are virtually transparent at present.

Georgia

Explosions Rock Central Tbilisi; 2 Reported Dead

AU1003140094 Paris AFP in English 1337 GMT 10 Mar 94

[Text] Tbilisi, March 10 (AFP)—Explosions rocked central Tbilisi Thursday [10 March], killing at least two people and wrecking a military headquarters and a tax office, the Interior Ministry said.

Two other people were hurt and more could be buried under the ruins of the headquarters of the Mkhedrioni (knights), a former militia now part of the regular armed forces, where the strongest blast occurred, the ministry said.

Three smaller explosions occurred at the main tax department in the city.

Georgia, which in two years has seen a coup and two civil wars, is currently the theatre of a power struggle between the Security and Defence Ministries as well as uncontrolled banditry.

The Mkhedrioni, loyal to the president of the Georgian emergency committee, Djaba Iosseliani, had one of their regional officers killed at the end of January.

On February 3, while Russian President Boris Yeltsin was in Tbilisi, Deputy Defence Minister Nikolai Kekelidze was killed by a bomb at his home, and Defence Minister Georgi Karkarashvili was wounded by a second blast while visiting the scene.

Further Details

LD1003145394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1149 GMT 10 Mar 94

[Text] According to the press center of the Georgian Interior Ministry, a powerful explosion shook the headquarters of the Georgian Saviors' Corps in Tbilisi. The corps formed of members of the paramilitary Mkhedrioni group is led by Jaba Ioseliani.

Part of the building was destroyed. According to preliminary reports, two persons were killed and several wounded. More victims can be hidden under the debris. The Georgian Interior Ministry has launched an investigation.

This was not the first act of terrorism in Georgia this year.

On January 28 in Rustavi to the south of Tbilisi the chief of a local branch of Mkhedrioni Temur Talakhadze was killed in a barber shop. A bomb was planted under his chair.

On February 3 the deputy defence minister Niki Kekelidze died in an explosion in his own house in Tbilisi. The same day defence minister Georgi Karkarashvili was shell-shocked by another blast.

On February 8 a ministry officer Vasil Koberidze was shot dead outside his house in Tbilisi.

None of the assassins has been captured.

Parliament Moves To Disband Abkhaz Soviet

LD1003143494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1329 GMT 10 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi, 10 Mar—The Georgian parliament adopted a resolution today to disband the Abkhaz Supreme Soviet, having qualified its election in July 1991 as a breach of civil rights. It also abolished the law on the elections of the autonomous republic's representative body, adopted by the Georgian Supreme Soviet on 9 July of that year, during Zviad Gamsakhurdia's rule, which stipulated a quota for deputies of Abkhaz ethnic origin higher than the total number of all other deputies.

A decision was also taken to transfer the functions of the Abkhazian Supreme Soviet to the Abkhaz council of ministers in exile, which is based in Tbilisi, having determined its status as a temporary body.

UN Talks With Abkhazia End 'Without Success'

LD1003155994 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1400 GMT 10 Mar 94

[Text] Georgian-Abkhaz talks on settlement of the Abkhaz conflict which started at the UN headquarters on 7 March ended without success, said Alvaro de Soto, the chief political adviser to the UN secretary general. He said that on Wednesday evening, at the closed consultations of the Security Council, the UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali told the members of the Security Council that the Georgian-Abkhaz negotiations which had been under way at the UN headquarters since 7 March ended due to unavailability of good prospects for reaching an agreement. There is not a single agreement signing which could be possible, said de Soto. According to him, Georgian-Abkhaz negotiations would probably resume in Geneva next month.

Shevardnadze Says No Decision Yet on UN Forces

LD1103094194 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0630 GMT 11 Mar 94

[Text] Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze reported by telephone from the United States to the press secretariat in Tbilisi that for the moment the UN Security Council has not adopted a resolution on sending international peace-keeping forces to Abkhazia.

According to Shevardnadze, one of the main problems is financing. True this issue was practically decided during Eduard Shevardnadze's meeting with the U.S. congressmen and the President in Washington. It is precisely the United States that will take upon itself the main part of the financing of the international peace-keeping forces.

After ending his visit to the United States, Eduard Shevardnadze set off for Canada.

Russian Paper Trying To Strain Ties With Yerevan

LD1003173394 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1200 GMT 10 Mar 94

[Text] Tbilisi, 10 Mar—According to Iberia news agency, the NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA has circulated information, according to which Armenian Foreign Minister Vahan Papazyan said at a news conference in Moscow: "Georgians must come to terms with the idea that they shall not have the gas which is sent from Turkmenistan for Armenia. The situation in connection with the Armenian minority in Georgia is becoming tense. Very soon the issue of Javakheti [south Georgia] will rise and it will assume the scale of the Karabakh conflict."

In this connection, Van Baiburt, chairman of the charity Society of Armenian Culture in the Republic of Georgia, and editor in chief of the 'VRASTAN' newspaper, in conversation with an Iberia correspondent, has said that he is aware of the good will for Georgia cherished by Armenia's President Levon Ter-Petrosyan and his colleagues, and that it enables us to assert that the statement published in the Russian mass media is yet another attempt by the third force to strain the relations between Armenia and Georgia. Van Baiburt also notes that the letter of protest sent by the Armenian foreign minister to the NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA newspaper is proof of this interference.

"A large part of the Armenian population knows very well that the Georgian authorities are not to blame for blocking the vital raw material to Armenia, although the Armenian opposition is over-suspicious and considers that it is being done intentionally, and is allegedly the result of a Georgian-Azeri alliance," said Van Baiburt.

According to Baiburt's opinion, the third force wishes to wage a conflict between Armenia and Georgia and therefore it is necessary to carry out a very smooth policy which completely contradicts deputy Tengiz Sigua's statement at a parliament session.

"Georgian and Armenian people are wise and will not be beguiled into these provocations," concluded Baiburt.

Russian Credit To Be Used Solely on Power, Fuel

LD1003203094 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1530 GMT 10 Mar 94

[Text] Tbilisi, 10 Mar—Iberia news agency has learned that at a meeting of the Presidium of the Georgian Cabinet of Ministers Prime Minister Otar Patatsia said that the 20-billion [currency not specified] credit received from Russia will be fully spent on the electric power supply and the import of fuel to Georgia.

According to Vice Premier Zurab Kervalishvili, 8 billion of the 20 billion will be required for the maintenance of the Tbilisi regional power station. Zurab Kervalishvili has been instructed to create a mechanism of having the

population pay fees for electricity otherwise, it should be declared that the population is supplied with electricity, gas, and the like free of charge.

'Sabotage Groups' Continue To Operate in Abkhazia

*LD1103105694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2032
GMT 10 Mar 94*

[Text] Georgian sabotage groups continue to operate in Abkhazia, a spokesman for the Abkhaz mission in Moscow told Interfax referring to the country's Interior Ministry.

In a recent terrorist attack on the mountain village of Naa in the Ochamchira region, several members of the Mengrel ethnic group accused by Georgia of sympathy for ex-president Zviad Gamsakhurdia were killed. Fourteen houses were burnt down.

The village is now under the control of Abkhazian troops and investigations are under way. Police officials say that a portable radio, documents and personal belongings of Georgian soldiers were found on the scene.

Abkhazia's interior Minister Givi Agrba accused Georgian security services of launching sabotage attacks to try to unsettle the situation in the republic.

Estonia

Government Not To Break Off Talks With Moscow

LD1003171794 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1200 GMT 10 Mar 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] As we know, the 17th round of Russo-Estonian talks, which was held recently, produced no specific results whatsoever. The talks merely complicated relations between the two states still further. The negotiations are bogged down over the question of 11,000 military pensioners who wish to go on living in Estonia. Since over half of these retired personnel are younger than 60, Tallinn considers that they pose a threat to Estonia's national security. It says the question of the pensioners cannot be linked to the withdrawal of the last contingent of Russian troops, 2,500 men in all.

However, the Russian delegation has refused to sign the withdrawal agreement unless the question of the pensioners who want to stay on in their apartments is first resolved.

After the failure of the last round, Tallinn initially intended to suspend the negotiating process in order to draw world attention to the problem. However, a meeting of the cabinet made a different decision. It adopted a statement, accusing Russia of trying to destabilize the situation in the Baltic region, but calling on Moscow to start consultations—at a high political level, as it was put.

Prime Minister Invited to Poland

WS1003205094 Tallinn ETA in English 1809 GMT 10 Mar 94

["News Release"]

[Text] Estonian Prime Minister Mart Laar in his telephone conversation with Poland's Prime Minister Waldemar Pawlak on Thursday [10 March] received an invitation to visit the country in near future, the government's press office informed ETA.

Pawlak asked Laar to consider joining the initiative of East and Central European countries, Development for Peace, to intensify economic and trade cooperation between Central and East European countries and develop joint positions at negotiations with the European Union.

Both Premiers agreed that in order to discuss the issue, Foreign Ministers of the countries concerned should meet in Warsaw.

Pawlak and Laar also discussed building a natural gas pipeline uniting the Nordic countries, the Baltics and Eastern Europe. The issue will be discussed at a meeting of Energy Ministers scheduled for April.

Parliament Adopts Law on Military Service

WS1003124894 Tallinn BNS in English 1037 GMT 10 Mar 94

[Excerpt] Tallinn, Mar 10, BNS—Estonian parliament on Wednesday [9 March] adopted the law on service in the defense forces. The law regulates registration and call-up of citizens, deferment of call-up, exemption from conscription, beginning and end of service, service on a contractual basis, service in the reserve, alternative service, and the rights and obligations of conscripts. [passage omitted]

Parliament Adopts Law on Sensitive Archive Material

LD1003201094 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1500 GMT 10 Mar 94

[Text] At a third reading the Riigikogu [parliament] has adopted a law on collecting, registering, maintaining, and using materials of foreign countries' security and intelligence organizations which operated in Estonia, and which were put together prior to 1 January 1992. The law deals with materials both located in Estonia or removed from here, which contain information about the local population's activities and repressions, as well as materials dealing directly with foreign countries' intelligence activities.

According to the law, these materials are the property of the State of Estonia. The collecting, registering, maintaining, and using of intelligence materials are the tasks of the state secretary and the archives department's director general. Everyone has the right to familiarize themselves with the materials kept about them at the archives. Everyone who has materials about foreign countries' intelligence services in their possession must inform the archives department within three months from the inception date on the law on intelligence materials and hand them over by the date set by the department.

Enn Tarto, who presented the law and who is chairman of the temporary commission investigating the activities of foreign countries' intelligence and security services, told ETA that the law regulates first and foremost the use of materials of the former USSR State Security Committee and its subsidiaries, as well as those of other countries' intelligence. According to Tarto, the law will also protect people from incorrect quoting and extracting material out of context. Tarto acknowledges that even though Estonia made repeated applications for the return of all intelligence materials removed from Estonia to Russia, the return of such materials is possible on the strength of the basic agreement on a mutual exchange of culturally valuable articles concluded in 1993.

Growth of National Currency Collateral Reported
WS0903193894 Tallinn BNS in English 1640 GMT
 9 Mar 94

[Text] Tallinn, Mar 09, BNS—The growth of the collateral of Estonia's national currency in February sank to a record low for the whole period after the monetary reform of June 1992, a report by the central bank shows.

The Estonian kroon's collateral amounted to 5,373.7 million kroons, or about 392 million U.S. dollars as of Feb. 28.

The gold and hard currency reserve increased only by 32.5 million kroons in February. The growth was also relatively low in January, 104 million kroons, when compared with the highs of more than 400 million kroons for certain months after the reform.

The central bank issued 15.6 million kroons in cash last month, bringing the total value of cash in circulation to 2,793.9 million kroons. Banks' assets at the central bank decreased by 16.5 million kroons to 1,139.7 million kroons. Bank of Estonia's capital and reserve increased by 33.4 million kroons to 1,440.1 million kroons. The bank's own capital and reserve currently make up 26.8 percent of the total gold and hard currency reserve.

The Bank of Estonia on Tuesday [8 March] released the balance of the Estonian kroon and the bank's own business standing as of Feb. 28. The bank in comments to the report says 30 million kroons in the central bank's profits of 1993 were transferred to the state budget at the end of last month.

The central bank's balance sheet shows the value of Estonia's gold reserve stable at 44.7 million kroons. The stock of foreign hard currency rose by 41.4 million kroons, now amounting to 7,719.7 million kroons. Estonia's SDR (Special Drawing Right) account with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) declined slightly and is reported at 746.1 million kroons. Estonia's participation in IMF remains unchanged at 837.0 million kroons, the assets also include 105 million kroons worth of bonds.

The loans issued are reported down by 60.1 million kroons, now at 422.6 million kroons. Credits provided to the government account for 45.2 million of that. Shares and involvements held by the Estonian central bank make up 62.5 million kroons, and capital assets, 36.9 million kroons.

The central bank's assets total 6,983.4 million kroons, down 58 million in a month from the end of January.

Cash in circulation, 2,793.9 million kroons, accounts for the greatest part of the bank's liabilities. The IMF's national currency support account in the Bank of Estonia totals 1,590.4 million kroons. Other banks' accounts and other current accounts have decreased 16.5 million kroons from January and now make up 1,139.7 million kroons.

The Bank of Estonia's capital and reserve make up 1,317.6 million kroons, and foreign debts, 136.6 million kroons.

Month	Increase in currency reserve (in millions of kroons)	Capital and reserve percentage of gold and currency reserve by 1st day of month
1992		
August	94.4	35.4
September	103.4	27.1
October	416.1	31.9
November	190.2	30.8
December	157.1	30.0
1993		
January	273.2	27.7
February	72.5	26.7
March	213.1	22.7
April	243.6	25.6
May	184.5	27.5
June	230.2	26.1
July	425.0	21.5
August	95.5	20.1
September	267.1	20.7
October	78.3	25.1
November	385.7	25.8
December	266.1	28.3
1994		
January	104.0	25.9
February	32.5	26.3
March		26.8

Tallinn's Income Takes Plunge in 1994

WS1003205194 Tallinn ETA in English 1832 GMT
 10 Mar 94

["News Release"]

[Text] Drafting Tallinn's 1994 budget is very difficult as the city's expected income has decreased almost twice, Tiit Vhi, ex-premier and the current council chairman of Estonian capital, told ETA on Thursday [10 March]. In 1993, Tallinn's income was almost one billion kroons, but this year only some 525 million kroons are expected to be collected from taxes.

"The state tied Tallinn's hands behind the back and took away its wallet," Vhi said while adding that 81 percent of taxes go to the state while only 19 percent is left at the disposal of local self-government.

Tallinn produces 76 percent of the country's sales tax and entrepreneur's tax and half of private persons'

income tax while only one third of the country's population lives in Estonia, Jaak Tamm, the Mayor of Tallinn, told ETA.

Tallinn is more or less Estonia's tax base, Tamm said while accusing the government in attempts to revitalise centralization.

"The importance of the state is continually growing along with the centralization of resources and their state-controlled distribution—planned economy in its essence," Tamm said.

Latvia

Saeima Committee To Investigate Interior Ministry

WS0903203594 Tallinn BNS in English 1921 GMT
9 Mar 94

[Text] Riga, Mar 09, BNS—The Latvian Saeima (parliament) Defense and Interior Affairs Committee set up a working party Wednesday [9 March] to investigate into the record of the country's Interior Ministry.

The group is authorized to check the methods of staffing because police often lack proper knowledge of the Latvian language. The lawfulness of non-service engagements of police with public structures and funds will be another field for inspection.

Deputies will also examine whether the ministry uses budget resources reasonably and purposefully.

The committee formed the group because it wants to help tidy up the ministry's structures, committee head Ivars Silars told BNS.

The parliament must follow the observance of law in police units which employ many "chance people whose sense of stately responsibility is minimal," said Silars.

Interior Minister Girts Kristovskis also welcomed the move, Silars noted. The group includes all members of the Defense and Interior Affairs' Committee but Kristovskis, Defense Minister Valdis Pavlovskis and Defense Ministry's Parliamentary Secretary Andris Ligotnis.

Saeima Considers Trade Union Demands on Wages

WS0903203494 Tallinn BNS in English 1921 GMT
9 Mar 94

[Text] Riga, Mar 09, BNS—The Saeima (parliament) Economics, Agrarian and Regional Policies Committee looked at demands by the Feb. 24 trade unions congress to the Latvian leadership.

Trade unions want the government and the parliament to ensure the payment of wages detained in state-operated enterprises. The payments should be performed by May 1, the appeal said.

Unionists also suggest that the minimum monthly wages should be fixed at 58 lats to comply with the actual subsistence minimum. The crisis minimum should be 33 lats per month.

Deputies, however, said it was impossible to increase the minimum wages in the near future because the motion would require revision of the entire state budget.

Saeima is also unable to guarantee the payment of the detained wages by the required date.

The issue of wages is closely linked to the bankruptcy and liquidation of state sector businesses, said committee member Anna Seile. Saeima has passed two legislations ruling that payroll payments are priority obligations when an enterprise is liquidated.

Saeima Rescinds Regulations on Police Powers

LD1003212694 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian
1800 GMT 10 Mar 94

[Text] The Saeima today adopted a proposal by the Judicial Commission that the regulations adopted under Paragraph 81 of the Constitution by the Cabinet of Ministers, to the effect that, additional powers for the state police and Home Guard lost their force on the day after this resolution was announced. Before that the Saeima voted against these conditions, as a first reading of the bill, and also rejected the proposal from the Commission on Defense and Internal Affairs, returning them to the government for reworking. The regulations were adopted by the Cabinet in the last days of 1993, and were intended for police officers working together with the Home Guards, with the right to search detained cars and their passengers.

In the debate prior to the vote, Deputy Aristids Lamberg of the Latvian National Independence Movement stressed that the regulations adopted openly violate the rights of citizens of the Republic of Latvia and the principles of personal freedom. In turn, at a news conference after the vote, Latvian Way faction head Andrejs Pantelejevs welcomed all the racketeers and other (?kinds of) bandits whom the police officers and Home Guard will not be able to search when stopping their cars [sentence as heard].

The Saeima also adopted on its first reading a bill prepared by the Commission on Defense and Internal Affairs on the National Security institution and the Bureau for the Protection of the Constitution. The Saeima rejected an alternative possibility, a bill prepared by the Cabinet on counter-espionage.

Army Holds 'Extraordinary Situations' Drills
WS0903150494 Tallinn BNS in English 1309 GMT
9 Mar 94

[Text] Riga, Mar 09, BNS—Latvia's National Armed Forces hold routine exercise this week to drill the tasks and actions of the defense formations in extraordinary situations.

The exercise is designed for the Defense Force and Homeguard staff units and the Interior Ministry's mobile regiment. The National Defense Academy's representatives participate in the status of observers.

According to the exercise plan, the participating units were put on alarm early Tuesday [8 March] morning. Two hours later, 85 percent of Homeguard Staff members and 62 percent of Defense Forces Staff members had arrived in the place of service.

Defense Force Cmdr. Dainis Turlais and Homeguard Staff Cmdr. Juris Eihmanis reported on the results of the training alarm to President Guntis Ulmanis, who leads the exercise.

The meeting also heard a resolution by the National Defense Council to set up a National Armed Forces Staff from the Defense Forces Staff and the Homeguard Staff in the conditions of exercise and extraordinary situations.

Report Issued on Birthrate, Life Expectancy

WS1103105794 Riga DIENA in Latvian 26 Feb 94 p 1

[Article by Anda Mikelsons: "The Number of Inhabitants of Latvia Will Decrease"]

[Text] Riga, 24 Feb—Since the end of the 1980's, a steady decrease of the birthrate in Latvia can be observed. At the beginning of the 1990's, there was already a negative birthrate in the country. In 1993, the number of people living in Latvia decreased by 12,000. Last year, 27,300 babies were born—4,300 fewer than during the previous year. Currently, the birthrate in Latvia is lower than the European average. In addition, forecasts by Professor Peteris Zvirgzdins, head of the Statistics and Demographics Department at Latvian University, are not optimistic—he predicts that the birthrate in Latvia may continue decreasing until the year 2010.

At the end of the last year, specialists from Latvian University completed a study entitled: "The Forecast for Latvian Demographic Development in the Period 1993-2003," in which data can be found outlining perspective demographic development in all of Latvia's regions and towns. According to this study, over the next 10 years the number of inhabitants will decrease by 142,000 people; in Riga alone, it may decrease by 108,000.

P. Zvirgzdins predicts that the birthrate could eventually increase, nearing the level necessary for generational

replacement, but only after another 15 or 20 years, when people born in the mid-1980's begin thinking about having children of their own—at that time, the birthrate was at its highest level: the number of babies born yearly was about 13,000-14,000 more than the number being delivered today.

In addition, the overall birth coefficient, which indicates how many children a woman bears in her lifetime, has decreased. In 1986-1987, the coefficient stood at 2.15, but now it has already decreased to 1.4. According to P. Zvirgzdins, this figure can increase to 1.9 by 2003, but it still has to reach of level of at least 2.1 before generational replacement can be achieved.

The birthrate is also being considerably effected by the number of marriages, which has been decreasing over recent years. In 1993, 14,000 marriages were registered, and this is 8,000 fewer than in 1991. At the same time, the number of dissolved marriages remains at a very high level; the highest in the world—in 1992, 77 out of 100 registered marriages were dissolved, but in 1993—71.

Last year, in comparison with the previous year, almost 4,000 more people died than in 1992. Plus, the average lifespan is also decreasing. According to P. Zvirgzdins, the average lifespan for a man in Latvia in 1988 was 66.3 years, for a woman—75.1 years; last year, men lived approximately 61 years, women—73 years.

P. Zvirgzdins is of the opinion that in great measure the reasons for the decreasing birthrate could be the present economic difficulties and the government's passive attitude toward the solution of demographic problems. Young couples are left to fend for themselves entirely.

Minister Signs Protocol for German Assistance

LD1003220294 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian
1800 GMT 10 Mar 94

[Text] Today in Riga, Girts Kristovskis, Latvian minister of internal affairs, and Reinhard Teiling, a spokesman for the German Ministry of Internal Affairs, signed a protocol to the treaty concluded in 1992 between the two Ministries of Internal Affairs on technical assistance to the Latvian Ministry of Internal Affairs. A news conference was held after the signing of the protocol.

Linards Mucins, parliamentary secretary at the Latvian Ministry of Internal Affairs, said that this treaty provides for German assistance to a value of 3 million marks to the internal affairs system of Latvia. Most of this sum is due to be used for acquiring communications equipment. At present a new cooperation treaty with the German Ministry of Internal Affairs is in preparation.

Lithuania

Russia Issues Statement on Military Transit

LD1003221794 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1700 GMT 10 Mar 94

[Text] A statement by the Russian Embassy in Lithuania was received by ELTA which reads:

As reported by ELTA on 22 February of the current year, Nikolay Obertyshev, ambassador of the Russian Federation to the Republic of Lithuania, was summoned to the Lithuanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. His attention was drawn to the unsanctioned—in quotation marks—passage of a Russian train carrying armored transport vehicles through the territory of the Republic of Lithuania on the night from 19 to 20 February. It was requested that Russia should take measures in order that such incidents are avoided in future.

On the basis of the explanations received from Moscow, the Embassy would like to report through ELTA to the Lithuanian public that the armament was being transported according to the procedure which was coordinated in 1992 by the Russian Defense Ministry and the Lithuanian National Defense Ministry, which does not want to register officially a separate agreement or a protocol.

Lithuania has not until now been informing the Russian representatives either about the procedure of informing the competent representatives of the Lithuanian authorities six hours before the arrival of trains to the border stations when this concerns military transit through the territory of Lithuania, or about the conditions of the armed guards accompanying transit military cargos through the territory of Lithuania.

There is no doubt that situations such as this could be avoided in future if the negotiations started as soon as possible and the relevant agreements were prepared on military transit which would regulate in full the rights and obligations of both countries.

Denmark To Seek Integration of Baltics Into NATO

LD1003235894 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in International Service in Lithuanian 2200 10 Mar 94

[Text] Denmark will aspire for integration as quickly as possible of the Baltic states into NATO and the European Union, Danish Minister of Defense Hans Haekkerup, who is currently visiting Lithuania, said at the meeting with Ceslovas Jursenas, Chairman of the Lithuanian Seimas.

The Danish defense minister made assurances of his country's help so that the Baltic states will be regarded in this process as equal with Romania and Bulgaria and not be placed behind them.

At the meetings between President Algirdas Brazauskas, Minister of National Defense Linas Linkevicius, and members of the Lithuanian Seimas, problems related to the strengthening of the Lithuanian state border, possibilities for joint military exercises, and assistance in setting up the Baltic peacekeeping battalion were discussed.

Apart from this, it has been noted during the talks that the first units of Lithuanian servicemen from the peacekeeping battalion would be able to join the peacekeeping process within the composition of the Danish forces deployed in Croatia.

On Thursday [10 February] the Danish minister of defense met the leaders of the Voluntary National Defense Force and visited Klaipeda where he met the commanders of the Lithuanian marine force, visited the port, and got acquainted with the technical equipment and armament of the fleet. On Friday the Danish defense minister and the Lithuanian minister of national defense are to sign a cooperation treaty.

MP 'Surprised' by Apology to Polish Embassy

WS0903193794 Tallinn BNS in English 1640 GMT 9 Mar 94

[Text] Vilnius, Mar 09, BNS - MP Romualdas Ozolas, chairman of the Lithuania Center Union, said he was surprised by the Lithuanian Foreign Ministry's apologies to the Polish Embassy in Vilnius.

The embassy last week presented a note of protest to the Foreign Ministry concerning Ozolas' statements in the Vilnius-based LIETUVOS RYTAS newspaper.

The lawmaker accused Jan Widacki, Polish ambassador to Lithuania, of "organizing active polonization" in Lithuania and called him "a Polish security employee."

The Polish embassy announced on Tuesday [8 March] that the Lithuanian Foreign Ministry expressed regret about the lawmaker's statements.

At a press conference Wednesday, Ozolas said he will meet Foreign Minister Povilas Gylys to discuss the incident.

In Ozolas' words, Polish newspapers wrote about Widacki's previous career. The lawmaker said he has documents to prove that the ambassador lectured in a Polish school of security officers. Hence, Ozolas said, it is possible to maintain that Widacki worked for the Polish security. The Lithuanian lawmaker said he will hand over these documents to Jurgis Jurgelis, head of the Lithuanian National Security Service.

Ozolas said the policy of the Lithuanian Government is surprising because Lithuania consents to the appointment of foreign ambassadors without paying any attention to their past.

The lawmaker said the recently appointed Belarusian ambassador is a former employee of the KGB. "I understand the interest of Belarus and Poland to appoint ambassadors who have experience of work in security systems, but I do not understand Lithuania's position."

Statements Condemned by Ministry

LD1103091594 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in International Service in Lithuanian 2200 GMT 10 Mar 94

[Text] The Lithuanian Foreign Ministry states that recent utterances by Seimas member Romualdas Ozolas personally insult ambassadors of some foreign states. Ozolas publicly labelled the Polish and Belarusian ambassadors in Lithuania security officials. He also expressed his astonishment at Lithuania agreeing to the diplomats' appointments, disregarding their services to the former system. The Foreign Ministry stated on 10 March that such statements are irresponsible and without foundations. This harms the right of choice by a neighboring state, complicates mutual relations between states, and humiliates the prestige of the Lithuanian state.

Brazauskas Addresses New Session of Seimas

LD1003145094 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1000 GMT 10 Mar 94

[Excerpts] The fourth session of the Lithuanian Seimas opened today. Guoda Salciute describes the first plenary sitting:

[Salciute] The solemn opening of the fourth session did not take long. Seimas Chairman Ceslovas Juršenas greeted the Seimas members on the occasion of the opening of the spring session on the eve of the extraordinary day—11 March. [date of restoration of Lithuanian independence] [passage omitted]

President Algirdas Brazauskas addressed all members of the Seimas:

[Begin Brazauskas recording] Esteemed Seimas, I would like to share with you this festive mood in this hall today, on the eve of the fourth anniversary of the restoration of Lithuania's independence. I cordially greet you on this day which is very significant to our state and nation. A free independent parliament, which was called the Supreme Council then, elected on democratic principles, was formed four years ago. It has accomplished a great deal. Although it has not been working for very long, its steps are significant in our political life and in the life of our state. Firm parliamentary traditions were formed during that period in our state, and the second parliament, elected in a democratic and worthy manner, has been working for over a year. It has accomplished a great deal; we all read in the press and heard how many decisions and laws of very great importance to our state it has passed.

I would like to wish you in this fourth session, the spring session, hard work, adherence to principles, and wisdom

in dealing with the affairs of our state and adopting laws and other documents, the list of which, as I have seen, is very long. These documents are of great significance to all spheres of our life, including domestic policy, economic reforms, the consolidation of the tax system and the legal system, and many other fields.

I would like to wish you successful work and good spirits. I hope you will not waste energy and wisdom there where good, common, bilateral or multilateral decisions can be achieved. Success to you all. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Deputy Examines Dangers to Statehood

WS1003140094 Vilnius TIESA in Lithuanian 5 Mar 94 No. 44 p 5

[Article by Bronius Genzelis, legislative deputy and member of the Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party: "The Negation of the State"]

[Excerpts] The overall destruction of the state is going on in Lithuania. The press is waging an intensive propaganda war against all government structures without exception (the Seimas [parliament], the president, courts, and self-governments). It seems that no positive changes have occurred since the restoration of independence in Lithuania. This idea is being promoted on all levels—from the "16 February" [Independence Day] to the "leftist" "oppositions" [reference to right and left radical forces]. The reader is being persuaded that Lithuanians are immature for their statehood (they vote for God knows who, most of them support those who do not deserve support, and so on). The supreme evil is the Seimas (formerly, the Supreme Council) which is composed of foolish and avid deputies. Money assigned for its maintenance is wasted. It follows from these speculations that elections are an unnecessary waste of finances, and that Lithuania does not need elected bodies. Was it better when strangers ruled us? Might the nation need a leader like the one [Landsbergis] offered at the 23 May 1992 referendum? Since citizens did not grant him unlimited powers, should not they put him in this post in some other way?

I am convinced that some of these propagandists do not even consider what they are proposing to the nation.

Another target of criticism is the national defense system. Is everything so black there as well? A campaign is being waged against the National Defense Ministry [KAM] and the Volunteer National Defense Service [SKAT]. Some people have a great temptation to bring the first organizers of our military structures to the bar.

Papers are publishing an increasing number of articles exposing our Army. Everything is bad there—the Army is arbitrary and corrupt. We must understand, however, why we have such a situation, and look for ways of improving it.

I would like to ask the current KAM critics: Where were you earlier, and what was your role in creating military structures? Could our Armed Forces, albeit imperfect, emerge on another basis?

When our country had no international recognition, no state could legally support us with arms. If some country had tried to do this openly, it would have been condemned for interference in internal affairs.

The illegal arms trade is a dirty business. It is often linked with the criminal world. History does not know any group fighting for its country's independence which has not tried to acquire arms illegally, while there is no legal way. Therefore, criminal charges can always be brought against them later for the "illegal" acquisition of arms. [passage omitted]

While Lithuania was not internationally recognized, it was dangerous to work in its military structures, particularly without arms. There were no possibilities then to check every person coming to the defense system and find out where he or she had bought their arms. Criminals usually take advantage of such situations.

The Supreme Council Security Department, the SKAT, and the National Defense Department (later the KAM) emerged during the events of January 1991. There is no wonder that ordinary hooligans and thieves also found themselves there due to the lack of control. I am sure that the Russian secret services inspired many of them to join these structures. These services must have infiltrated their agents into our originating military structures. I think that these people have not disappeared. Unfortunately, we know little about their network. However, this is only one side of the moon. What about the other?

KAM and SKAT politicians of that time would impart hatred toward their own countrymen with different views rather than foreign invaders. They seemed to see enemies around every corner. I think that the future will expose those who spread hatred and their goals.

On the other hand, our military commanders did not allow themselves to be involved in political intrigues: They accepted the results of both the 23 May 1992 referendum and the October Seimas elections, even though some people wanted to annul them.

The staff of KAM, SKAT, and the Supreme Council Security Department behaved properly during those elections. Political tolerance and responsibility was coming into being. Power was being smoothly transferred from one political group to another. Our military commanders did everything to prevent "Georgian-type" developments in our country. [passage omitted]

Certainly, we must protect our military structures from further corruption. However, financial violations in the past and the present are two different things.

If we continue to bluntly attack the KAM, we will either set the Army against us or impart an inferiority complex to our soldiers, which would be ruinous to the state in either case.

Summarizing these observations, one can draw the conclusion that there are two groups of people interested in discrediting KAM and SKAT: 1) Those who failed to use military structures for their egoistic interests; 2) The enemies of our independence who would like Lithuania not to have even a symbolic force that could resist attempts to suppress our state.

Let us consider the following synchronous events: As soon as the external pressure increases, the "internal opposition" (from the Poles' Union to the Nationalist Party) becomes active. Both these organizations are extremely nationalistic. It would be understandable if they engaged in cultural issues. I do not think that these small organizations could raise a big commotion all by themselves. For example, the Vilnius Regional Council, guided by the Poles' Union, is stepping up pressure on Lithuanian schools. Such steps are nothing but provocations (there are many former enemies of Lithuania's independence in this union). Therefore, it is clear why Lithuanian citizens look upon this organization with suspicion. At the same time, the nationalists are shouting about new elections, the overthrow of the government, and so on.

This forces one to consider which groups are interested in Lithuania's unstable situation, and brings one to the conclusion that there are three such forces operating in our country.

The first force is the supporters of the restoration of the Russian empire. They want to discredit the very idea of Lithuania's statehood and persuade the world community (as well as the Lithuanians themselves) that Lithuania is immature for its independence. Therefore, they are disseminating the following idea abroad—former communists have returned to power; chaos, poverty, and theft reign the country; it is dangerous for foreigners to stay here longer; there is no order in the country; or that Lithuania is capable of exporting only cheap prostitutes to the West. Thus, there remains nothing else but to return to the embrace of the Russian empire.

The second force is the "constructive opposition." Its single goal is to return to power by any means, without knowing what to do after that. Although this group is trying to discredit Lithuania's current government alone, actually it contributes to ruining not only government institutions but also the state itself.

The third force is the Mafia, which is completing its integration with the international criminal world. Mafia structures do not care about the color of the government. They seek to create corrupt authorities incapable of controlling the country's economy (the syndrome of a banana republic).

In reality (even though they do not seek this subjectively), the latter two groups serve the first one. I am sure that the first force has a network of its agents in the second two, and it can control the latter's actions through such measures—destabilize the situation in the country as necessary. [passage omitted]

'Non-Citizen Travel Document' Processing Begins

*WS0903150694 Tallinn BNS in English 1309 GMT
9 Mar 94*

[Text] Vilnius, Mar 09, BNS—Lithuanian migration services began to accept applications for "non-citizen travel documents" from people who are not Lithuanian citizens but permanently live in Lithuania.

Non-citizens are allowed to use old Soviet foreign passports for travel abroad until July 1. "Non-citizen travel documents" will be required after the date.

The new travel documents will be valid for two years and will have to be extended when the term expires.

Party Members Urge No-Confidence Vote in Minister

*WS0903150994 Tallinn BNS in English 1309 GMT
9 Mar 94*

[Text] Vilnius, Mar 09, BNS—40 members of the ruling Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party faction have signed a petition demanding the resignation of Lithuanian Forestry Minister Gintautas Kovalcikas.

The campaign began earlier this year when ruling faction member Benas Rupeika alleged that the minister has relatives in some private timber export companies, which are granted considerable privileges compared to state-run timber exporters. Rupeika said there was no "adequate" reaction to his suppositions from the president and the premier.

The situation at the Ministry of Forestry and its branches was investigated by the State Control Department, which found a number of violations in state timber trade.

40 signatures are enough to include a vote of no confidence in the parliament's agenda. But observers suppose that Kovalcikas will resign before his case is discussed in parliament.

The minister earlier said he does not intend to give up his post and suspected attempts to defame him.